



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01881 3706

1799  
2115

GC  
974.402  
W89MON

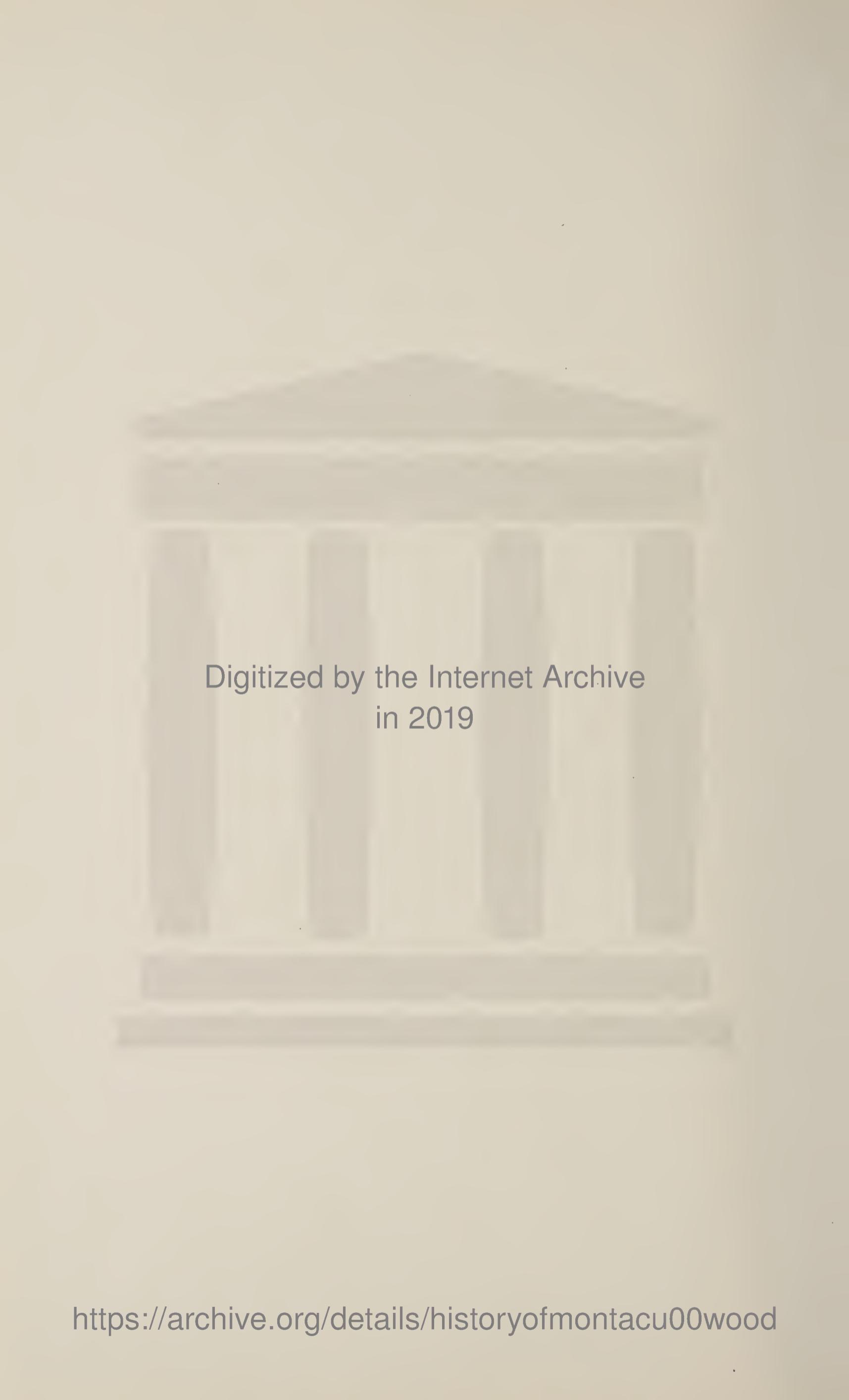


THE HISTORY  
OF  
MONTACUTE LODGE A.F. & A.M.

*Compiled in Commemoration of  
the One Hundredth Anniversary  
of the Institution of the Lodge*

June 21, 1858

A.L. 5858

A very faint, large watermark-like image of a classical building with four prominent columns is visible in the background of the page.

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2019

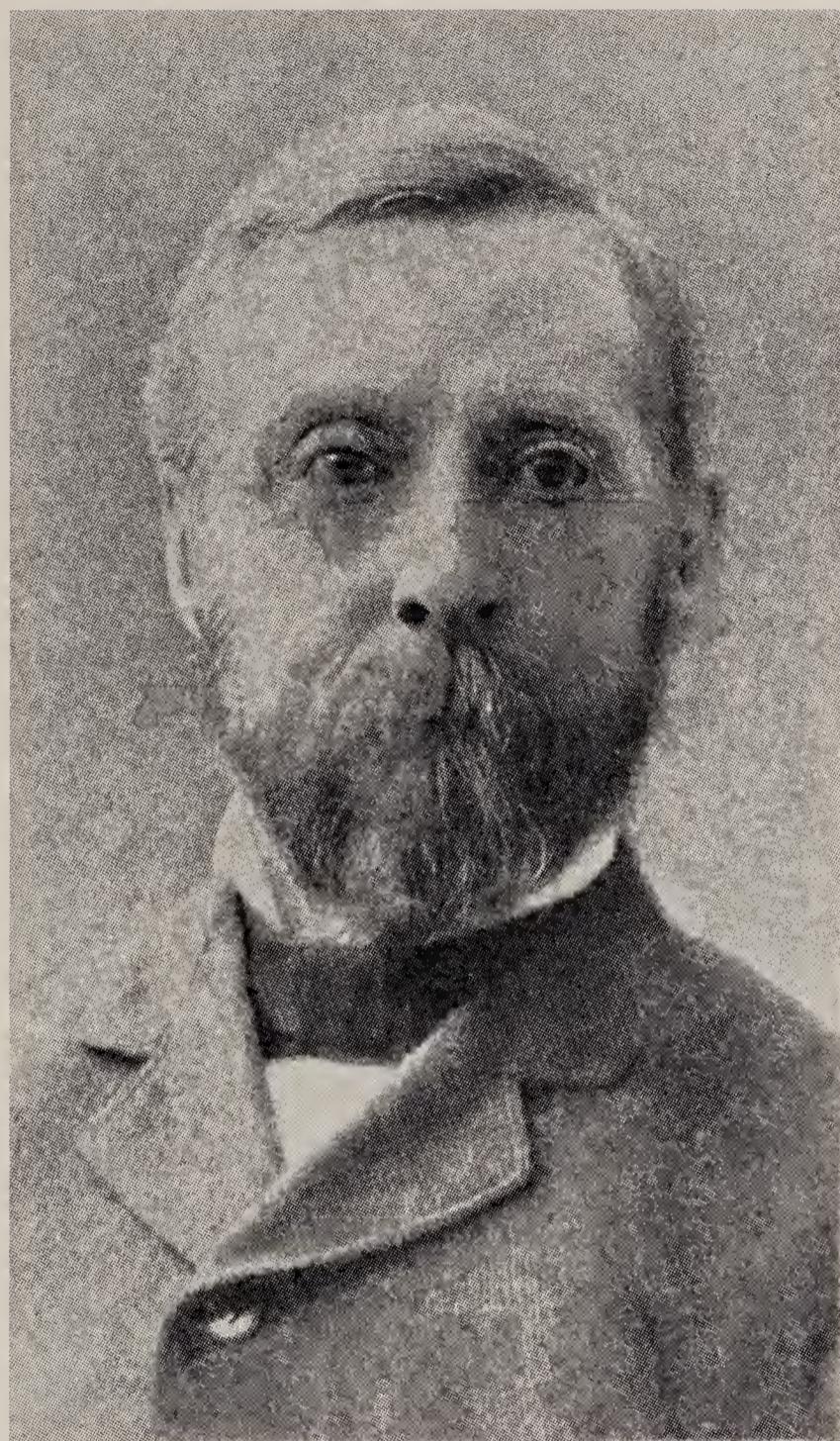
<https://archive.org/details/historyofmontacu00wood>





## 1958 OFFICERS

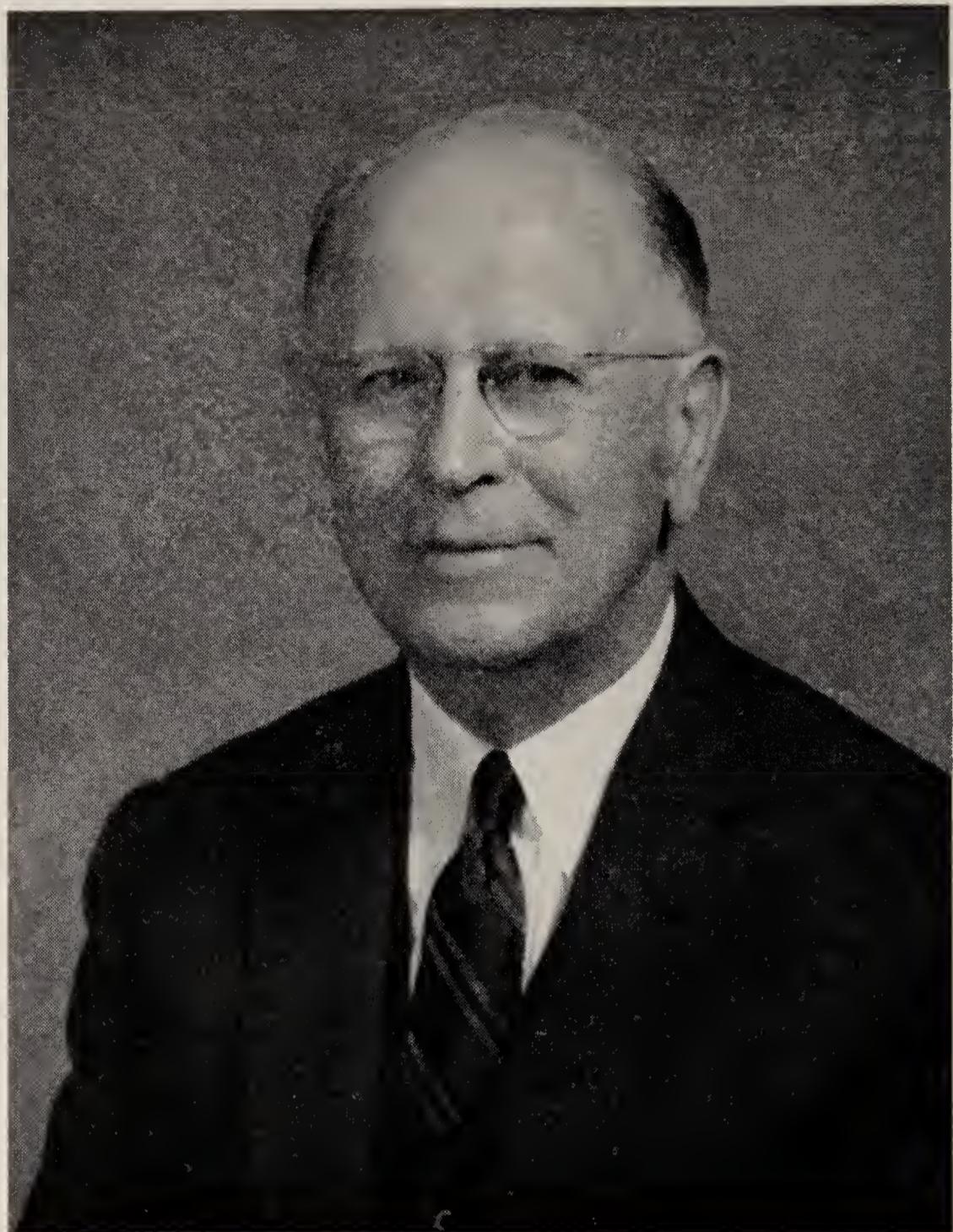
|                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wor. Emil Leslie Anderson            | <i>Master</i>             |
| Wilfred Winsor Rawson                | <i>Senior Warden</i>      |
| Guy Weatherbee Burr, Jr.             | <i>Junior Warden</i>      |
| Wor. Leonard Woods Howell            | <i>Treasurer</i>          |
| Wor. Thomas Edison Christensen       | <i>Secretary</i>          |
| Reginald William Needham, Jr.        | <i>Chaplain</i>           |
| Smith Gibson Philips                 | <i>Associate Chaplain</i> |
| Curtis Maitland                      | <i>Marshal</i>            |
| John Ernest Bucklar                  | <i>Senior Deacon</i>      |
| Carl Edward MacKay                   | <i>Junior Deacon</i>      |
| David Miller                         | <i>Senior Steward</i>     |
| Charles Arthur Cross                 | <i>Junior Steward</i>     |
| James Arthur Gates, Jr.              | <i>Inside Sentinel</i>    |
| James Alexander Stephen Gow          | <i>Organist</i>           |
| Francis Matthew Woodcock             | <i>Tyler</i>              |
| Rt. Wor. Edward Milton Woodward, Jr. | <i>Secretary Emeritus</i> |



Worshipful William Addison Smith

*First Master*

1858-1860



Most Worshipful Thomas Sherrard Roy

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Master of Montacute Lodge</i>    | 1935–1936 |
| <i>District Deputy Grand Master</i> | 1942      |
| <i>Deputy Grand Master</i>          | 1943      |
| <i>Most Worshipful Grand Master</i> | 1951–1953 |

## MEETING PLACES



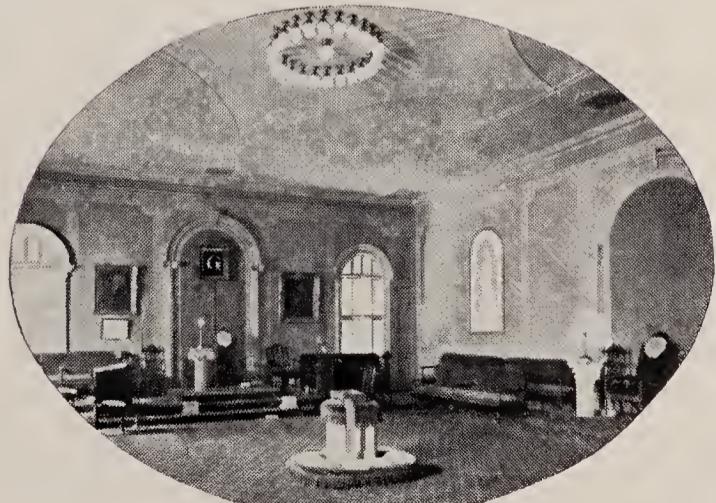
WALDO BLOCK  
MAIN STREET  
1858–1861



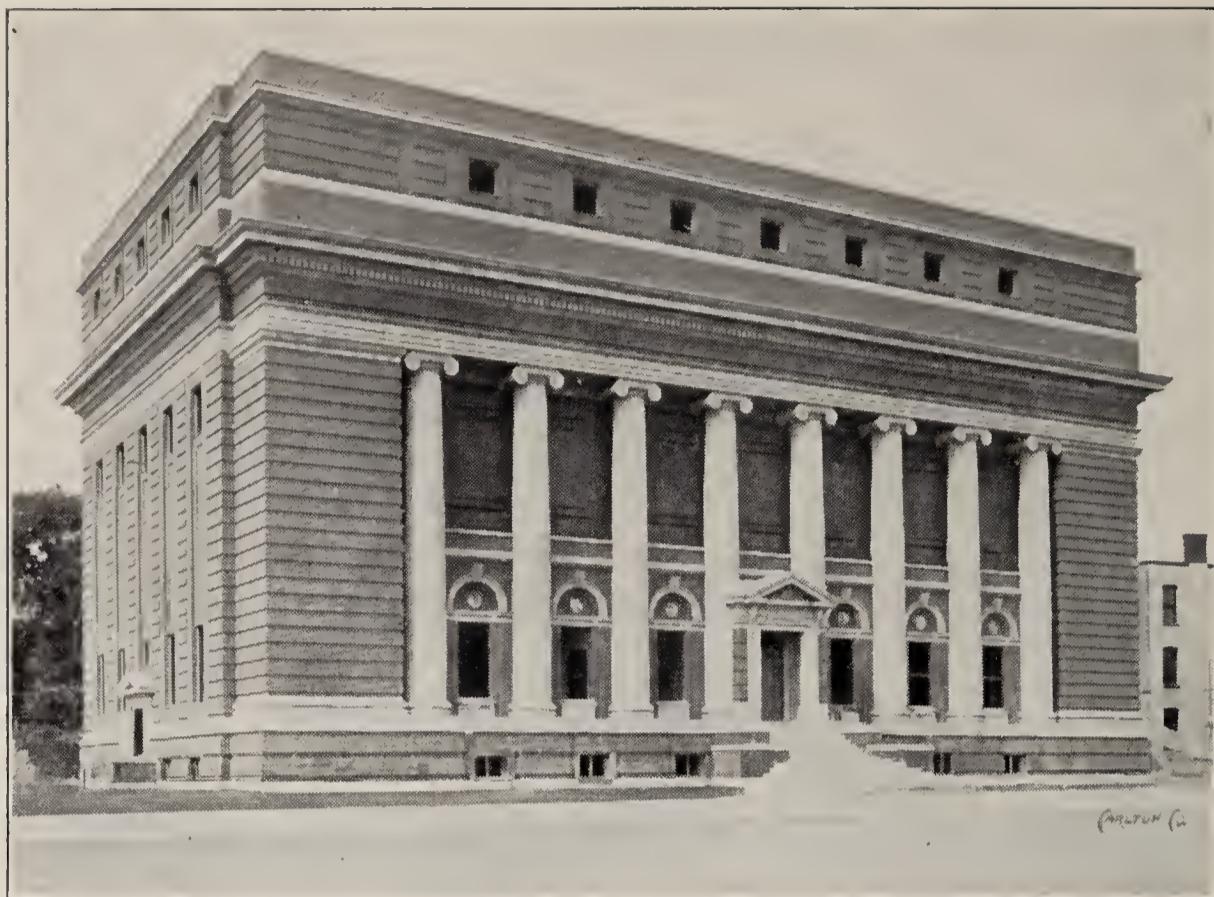
BANK BLOCK  
FOSTER STREET  
1861–1867



MASONIC HALL  
PEARL STREET  
1867–1914



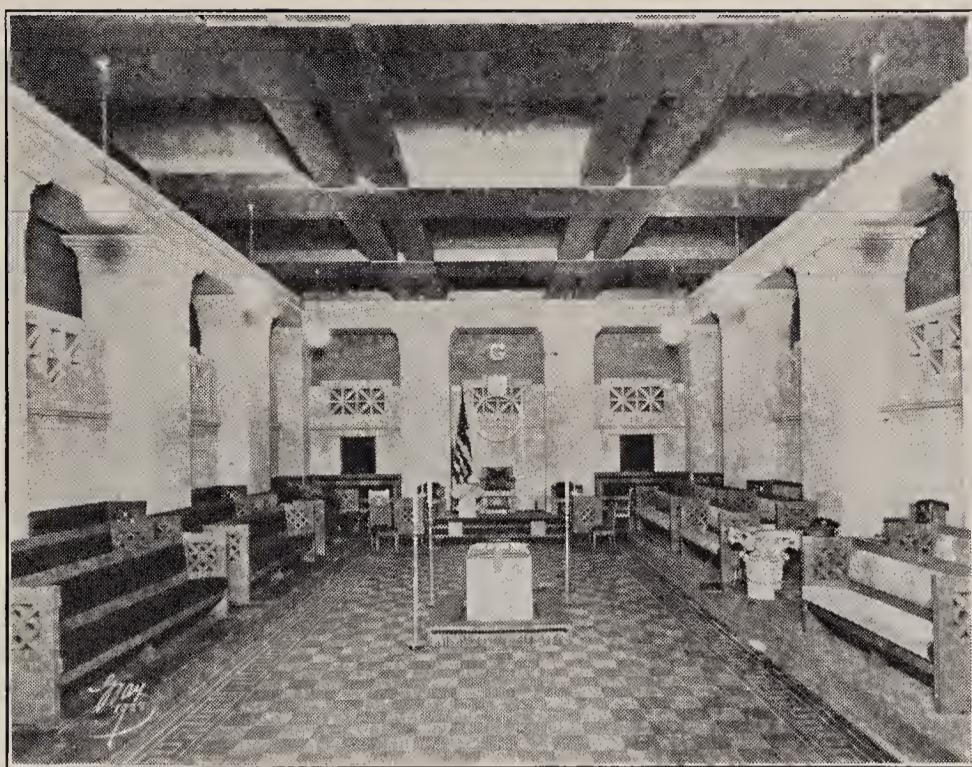
MASONIC TEMPLE  
IONIC AVENUE  
1914–1958



MASONIC TEMPLE

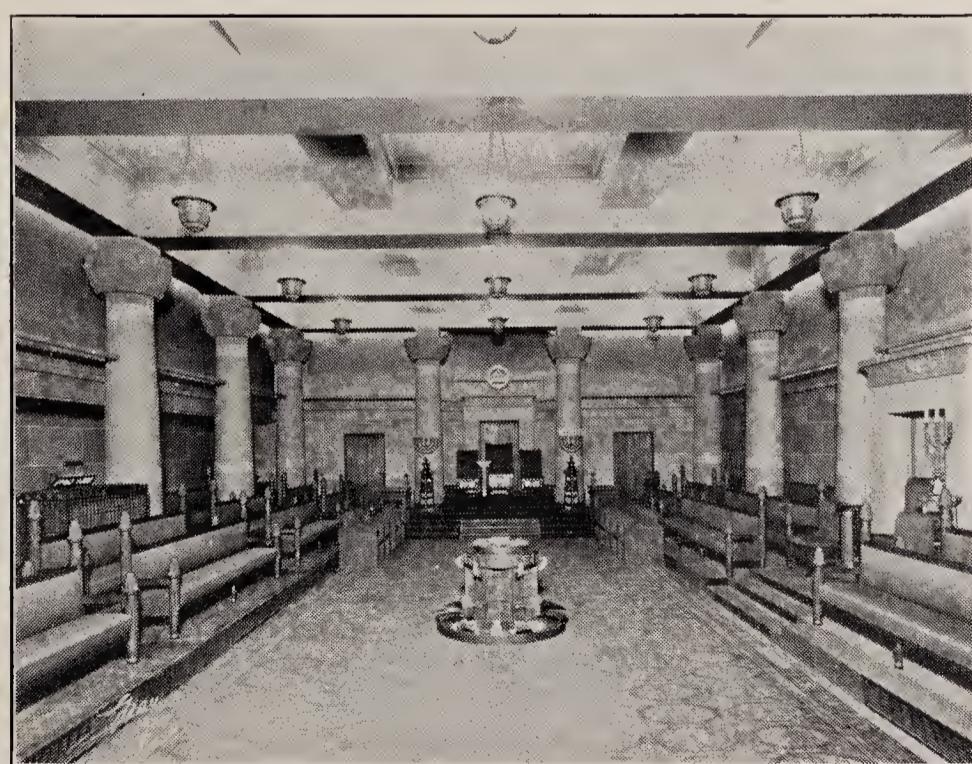
MAIN ENTRANCE





GRECIAN  
CHAMBER

EGYPTIAN  
CHAMBER



## PAST MASTERS

|                         |             |                         |         |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|
| *William A. Smith       | 1858-59-60  | *Harry A. Childs        | 1905-6  |
| *George W. Bentley      | 1860-61     | *Austin A. Heath        | 1906-7  |
| *James H. Osgood        | 1861-62     | *William H. Delong      | 1907-8  |
| *J. D. Washburn         | 1862-63     | *Melville F. Heath      | 1908-9  |
| *Benjamin Lewis         | 1863-64     | *George H. Mullen       | 1909-10 |
| *William S. Goodwin     | 1864-5-6    | *William H. Delong      | 1910-11 |
| *Albert Walbridge       | 1866-67     | *Oscar F. Burbank       | 1911-12 |
| *Emery Wilson           | 1867-68     | *George H. Jewett       | 1912-13 |
| *John W. Jordan         | 1868-69     | *Albert R. Webb         | 1913-14 |
| *Henry C. Willson       | 1869-70-71  | *Arthur L. Stone        | 1914-15 |
| *Nelson R. Scott        | 1871-72     | *Frank W. Ward          | 1915-16 |
| *Charles W. Moody       | 1872-73     | *Clarence R. Goddard    | 1916-17 |
| *G. Edward Smith        | 1873-74     | *Burt W. Greenwood      | 1917-18 |
| *George M. Taylor       | 1874-75     | Leonard W. Howell       | 1918-19 |
| *Henry D. Barber        | 1875-6-7    | Edward M. Woodward, Jr. | 1919-20 |
| *R. James Tatman        | 1877-78     | *Alfred E. Burbank      | 1920-21 |
| *George D. Boyden       | 1878-79     | *Byron A. Bishop        | 1921-22 |
| *Jeremiah Swasey        | 1879-80     | *Harry G. Miller        | 1922-23 |
| *Thomas Talbot          | 1880-81     | *W. Merrill Tuttle      | 1923-24 |
| *S. Henry Shattuck      | 1881-82     | *James T. Davidson      | 1924-25 |
| *Quincy A. Thomas       | 1882        | *Edwin A. Hunt          | 1925-26 |
| *Herbert J. Fisher      | 1883        | *D. Chester May         | 1926-27 |
| *Henry C. Willson       | 1883-84     | *H. Lyman Rawson        | 1927-28 |
| *George M. Rice         | 1884-85     | *Dale C. Crosby         | 1928-29 |
| *Frederick W. Southwick | 1885-6-7    | G. Willard King         | 1929-30 |
| *Joseph H. Dunkerton    | 1887-8-9    | Francis D. Hart         | 1930-31 |
| *Oliver P. Shattuck     | 1889-90     | Ronald R. Johnson       | 1931-32 |
| *Alexander Foulds       | 1890-91     | J. Wendell Woodill      | 1932-33 |
| *Enoch Earle            | 1891-2-3    | *Cyril C. Lawton        | 1933-34 |
| *Frank M. Heath         | 1893-4-5    | Allen W. Hixon          | 1934-35 |
| *Robert W. Clifford     | 1895-6-7    | Thomas S. Roy           | 1935-36 |
| *Forrest E. Barker      | 1897-8-9    | F. Kenneth Sawyer       | 1936-37 |
| *Edward P. Taft         | 1899-1900-1 | Victor H. Jennings      | 1937-38 |
| *Parkman H. Stearns     | 1901-2      | Earl E. Fipphen         | 1938-39 |
| *Frank A. Clark         | 1902-3      | Walter H. Shales        | 1939-40 |
| *Fred M. Sampson        | 1903-4      | Averill E. Cook         | 1940-41 |
| *Charles M. Farnum      | 1904-5      | *Earl C. Richards       | 1941-42 |

\**Deceased*

|                       |         |                        |         |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| Averill E. Cook       | 1942-43 | Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. | 1950-51 |
| Thomas E. Christensen | 1943-44 | Paul R. Nelson         | 1951-52 |
| Baalis Sanford        | 1944-45 | Francis B. Page        | 1952-53 |
| Robert J. King        | 1945-46 | Robert J. Sherwood     | 1953-54 |
| Howell G. Macduff     | 1946-47 | David G. Gow           | 1954-55 |
| William H. Nolet      | 1947-48 | Hugh Miller            | 1955-56 |
| Mark K. Forman        | 1948-49 | Elmer T. Scott         | 1956-57 |
| Robert B. Cameron     | 1949-50 |                        |         |



### Living Past Masters

*Front Row, Left to Right:* Allen W. Hixon, Ronald E. Johnson, Edward M. Woodward, Jr., Leonard W. Howell, G. Willard King, J. Wendell Woodill, Thomas S. Roy

*Back Row, Left to Right:* Hugh Miller, Robert J. Sherwood, Paul R. Nelson, Mark K. Forman, Howell G. Macduff, Averill E. Cook, Earl E. Fipphen, F. Kenneth Sawyer, Walter H. Shales, Thomas E. Christensen, William H. Nolet, Frederick J. Shaw, Jr., Francis B. Page, David G. Gow, Elmer T. Scott

*Not Present:* Francis D. Hart, Victor H. Jennings, Baalis Sanford, Robert J. King, Robert S. Cameron

## TREASURERS

|                         |           | No. of<br>Years |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Seth P. Miller          | 1858–1860 | 2               |
| Timothy W. Wellington   | 1860–1865 | 5               |
| Charles H. Fitch        | 1865–1866 | 1               |
| George F. Wood          | 1866–1871 | 5               |
| R. James Tatman         | 1871–1873 | 2               |
| George E. Fairbanks     | 1873–1874 | 1               |
| Daniel Seagrave         | 1874–1875 | 1               |
| Frederick W. Southwick  | 1875–1877 | 2               |
| Thomas Painter          | 1877–1880 | 3               |
| John A. Davis           | 1880–1881 | 1               |
| John F. Howell          | 1881–1898 | 17              |
| John H. Howell          | 1898–1907 | 9               |
| Austin A. Heath         | 1907–1914 | 7               |
| Edward M. Woodward      | 1914–1922 | 8               |
| Edward M. Woodward, Jr. | 1922–1934 | 12              |
| Ronald R. Johnson       | 1934–1949 | 15              |
| Leonard W. Howell       | 1949–1958 | 9               |

## SECRETARIES

|                         |           |    |
|-------------------------|-----------|----|
| William H. Eaton        | 1858–1859 | 1  |
| James L. Burbank        | 1859–1861 | 2  |
| Justin E. Wood          | 1861–1863 | 2  |
| George Phelps           | 1863–1866 | 3  |
| George E. Boyden        | 1866–1868 | 2  |
| G. Edward Smith         | 1868–1869 | 1  |
| Calvin E. Moran         | 1869–1870 | 1  |
| Henry D. Barber         | 1870–1872 | 2  |
| Horatio H. Marshall     | 1872–1874 | 2  |
| Jeremiah Swasey         | 1874–1877 | 3  |
| Frederick W. Southwick  | 1877–1883 | 6  |
| Edgar W. Warren         | 1883–1884 | 1  |
| Frederick A. Aldrich    | 1884–1891 | 7  |
| Henry A. Marvin         | 1891–1898 | 7  |
| Ephraim H. H. Wilson    | 1898–1917 | 19 |
| Henry N. Parker         | 1917–1918 | 1  |
| Arthur L. Stone         | 1918–1934 | 16 |
| Edward M. Woodward, Jr. | 1934–1957 | 23 |
| Thomas E. Christensen   | 1957–1958 | 1  |

## MEMBERS SERVING IN GRAND LODGE

|  |                           |           |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| Grand Master   | Thomas S. Roy             | 1951–1953 |
| Deputy Grand Master  | Thomas S. Roy             | 1943      |
| Senior Grand Warden  | Henry Goddard             | 1858      |
|  | Charles W. Moody          | 1880      |
|  | Forrest E. Barker         | 1904      |
| Grand Chaplain   | Rev. Vincent E. Tomlinson | 1927      |
| Junior Grand Deacon  | Benjamin Lewis            | 1868      |
|  | Forrest E. Barker         | 1901      |
| District Deputy Grand Master   | John A. Dana              | 1858–1860 |
|  | Henry Goddard             | 1861–1862 |
|  | William A. Smith          | 1875      |
|  | Charles W. Moody          | 1875–1879 |
|  | Frederick W. Southwick    | 1892–1893 |
|  | Robert W. Clifford        | 1898–1899 |
|  | Forrest E. Barker         | 1902–1903 |
|  | Austin A. Heath           | 1914–1915 |
|  | Edward M. Woodward, Jr.   | 1924–1925 |
|  | Burt W. Greenwood         | 1930–1931 |
|  | Thomas S. Roy             | 1942      |
|  | G. Willard King           | 1955–1956 |
| Grand Representative of the<br>Grand Lodges of California<br>and Nova Scotia | Thomas S. Roy             | 1958      |
| Senior Grand Steward   | Forrest E. Barker         | 1900      |
| Junior Grand Steward   | Henry C. Willson          | 1872–1873 |
|  | George M. Rice            | 1896      |
| Grand Sword Bearer   | Allen W. Hixon            | 1951–1953 |
| Grand Standard Bearer  | G. Willard King           | 1943      |
| Director of Grand Lodge  | Matthew J. Whittall       | 1915–1922 |
| Masonic Home Committee   | Fred M. Sampson           | 1909–1910 |
| Board of Masonic Relief  | Forrest E. Barker         | 1911–1914 |
|  | George M. Rice            | 1914–1917 |
|  | Edward M. Woodward, Jr.   | 1951–1958 |
| Clerk of Advisory Committee  | Edward M. Woodward, Jr.   | 1953–1956 |
| Zone Committeeman Committee<br>on Masonic Education                          | Frederick J. Shaw, Jr.    | 1955–1957 |
| Committee on Foreign Relations   | Thomas S. Roy             | 1958      |



# THE STORY OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS

BY

**R.W. EDWARD MILTON WOODWARD, JR.**

## THE BEGINNINGS

The Year: 1858. The days of the forty-niners were barely over. Expansion to the far west was on apace. Slavery was the principal issue before the country. The rumblings of the coming conflict between the North and the South were being heard.

Worcester was then a city of about 23,000 people, but it was only ten years since it had given up the town form of government. While the steam railroad was here, even horse-cars for local transportation were still in the future.

Worcester was already a Masonic center, the seat of one Lodge, a Royal Arch Chapter, a Council of Royal and Select Masters and an Encampment of Knights Templar. All of these bodies had been dormant during the anti-Masonic period. It was only fourteen years since Morning Star Lodge and Worcester County Encampment had been revived, twelve years since Worcester Chapter had resumed work, while Hiram Council had just awakened from its long sleep.

It was in this setting and during this period of reviving interest in Freemasonry that Montacute Lodge was born. On petition of 31 members of Morning Star Lodge, a dispensation dated June 21, 1858 was issued by the Grand Master, M.W. John T. Heard, authorizing the formation of a new Lodge in Worcester.

There is no record of any preliminary meeting of the petitioners. However, as all were members of Morning Star Lodge they had ample opportunity to confer with each other without the necessity of calling any formal meetings. All were young in Masonry, as might be expected from the short time since the revival of the Fraternity.

here. Twenty-one had been raised within the past two and a half years and the oldest had been a Mason for only eight years.

The petitioners requested that the new Lodge be called Crescent Lodge. However, on the suggestion of the Grand Master, the name was changed to Montacute commemorative of what was supposed to be the title of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, Anthony Brown, Viscount Montacute, who, in 1733, deputized Henry Price to be Provincial Grand Master of New England.

The dispensation named Bro. William Addison Smith, 34 years of age, as the first Master. While he had been a Mason for less than two years, he had already served a term as Junior Deacon of Morning Star Lodge and was then Senior Warden of that Lodge. He was a lawyer by profession and Assistant Clerk of Courts of Worcester County.

The Senior Warden was to be Bro. George Whitefield Bentley, 36 years old, Superintendent of the Worcester & Nashua Railroad Company, a Mason of five years' standing.

The oldest in age, but the youngest in Masonic experience of the first three officers was the Junior Warden, Bro. James Henry Osgood. Although 42 years old, he had been a Master Mason for less than two months. He was in the express business.

Included in the list of petitioners were the Master of Morning Star Lodge, Wor. Benjamin Lewis, who was later to become Master of Montacute; the junior Past Master, Wor. John A. Dana and Bro. Seth P. Miller, who was on his second year as Treasurer of Morning Star Lodge.

The first meeting of the new Lodge was on Tuesday evening, July 13, 1858, at Waldo Hall in the Waldo Block on the east side of Main Street just north of the Bay State House at the corner of Exchange Street. This was the meeting place of Morning Star Lodge. There was an attendance of thirty, including four visitors. The first business was to complete the organization of the Lodge. Bro. William H. Eaton, who conducted a business school known as "Eaton's Commercial College," was elected Secretary; Bro. Seth P. Miller, a dentist, Treasurer and the Master announced his appointments of the remaining officers.

The matter of obtaining a hall, regalia, jewels and a seal was referred to the Master and Wardens with power to act. Committees were appointed on raising necessary funds and drawing up a code

of By-Laws. Four applications for the degrees were received at this communication, three being residents of West Boylston.

This first communication was held on the second Tuesday of the month and the second Tuesday became the day for the regular meetings until 1867.

At the next regular, August 10th, three of the applicants for the degrees were accepted, and the Entered Apprentice degree was conferred on two of them on the same evening. The Second Degree was worked for the first time on November 9th and the Third Degree on December 14th.

## THE CHARTER

On April 12, 1859, the Lodge voted unanimously to apply for a charter. The By-Laws Committee submitted a Code of By-Laws which were adopted at a special communication on May 24th after considering it section by section. On June 27th an election of officers to serve under the charter was held. Those who had served under the dispensation were chosen to continue in office.

In the meantime the Grand Lodge had granted the petition for the charter which was issued under date of June 9, 1859, Montacute Lodge to take precedence from June 21, 1858.

At last the day came to which all had been looking forward. On June 28, 1859, Montacute Lodge was constituted by M.W. John T. Heard and the officers of the Grand Lodge, after which the Lodge officers were installed. None of the first line of officers ever became Master except the Wardens.

Five of those who petitioned for the dispensation decided not to become charter members. There is one name on the charter which was not included in the dispensation, R.W. Henry Goddard. Brother Goddard was a Past Master of Morning Star Lodge and was Senior Grand Warden in 1858. He was later to become District Deputy Grand Master and still later to demit to become a charter member and first Master of Athelstan Lodge. Montacute Lodge began its career as a chartered Lodge with 27 charter members and 9 others who had been raised under dispensation, a total of 36. Four others had been raised, but did not sign the By-Laws until later.

The first annual meeting was on November 8, 1859. The officers were re-elected except that Bro. James L. Burbank replaced Bro.

Eaton as Secretary. They were installed the same evening by the District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. John A. Dana, a member of Montacute Lodge. At the December regular it was "Voted that the thanks of Montacute Lodge be tendered to Bro. William H. Eaton for the able and faithful manner in which he discharged the duties of the office of Secretary from the formation of the Lodge under dispensation to the present time."

### THE HENRY PRICE GAVEL

In 1860 the gift of a gavel was received from M.W. John T. Heard. It was made from a pear tree that was transplanted a century previously from West Cambridge to Townsend, Massachusetts by our first Grand Master, Henry Price. It was voted that the Master extend to M.W. Brother Heard the thanks of the Lodge for his valuable gift and in his letter the Master said: "We shall value it for its historical associations and the reminiscences of the first Grand Master of Masons in America, which it will ever bring to mind. We shall prize it because it is your gift, the gift of our first Grand Master, from whom we received our Dispensation and whom we shall always delight to honor as our first official head and as an ever firm and faithful Friend and Brother." The gavel is still in the possession of Montacute Lodge.

### THE FIRST FUNERAL SERVICE

The Lodge was called, for the first time, to perform the funeral service for a departed brother on Saturday forenoon, December 15, 1860. The deceased was Bro. Thomas N. Hurlburt, one of our charter members. The funeral was held from the Universalist Church, then at the corner of Main and Foster Streets. Many times since, the Lodge has been called upon to perform the last Masonic rites for one of its members.

### CIVIL WAR

The fury of war had now burst upon the country. On July 25, 1861 a special communication was called, under dispensation from the District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Henry Goddard, for the purpose of receiving and acting upon a petition and to confer the

degrees on a candidate who had entered the army and was about to leave for the front. The Lodge opened at two o'clock in the afternoon, the petition was received, referred to a committee which immediately reported, a ballot taken and the candidate accepted. The First and Second Degrees were then conferred upon him. The Third Degree was worked upon him in the evening. This was the first of a number of such occurrences. It is noted that the District Deputies then had power to grant dispensations for purposes such as this.

The first war casualty was reported August 7, 1862, in a letter to the Treasurer of the Lodge from our member, Lt. Col. A. B. R. Sprague of the 25th Massachusetts regiment. This letter conveyed the intelligence of the death of Bro. William Hudson at Newbern, N.C. Bro. Sprague wrote in his capacity as Treasurer of Fraternal Army Lodge, No. 4, an army lodge in the 25th regiment warranted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Twice again was Montacute Lodge to mourn the deaths of members caused by the war. One was Capt. Edward R. Washburn, who raised a company in Lancaster and went to Louisiana as its captain. He was mortally wounded in the assault on Port Hudson. The other was Col. Francis Washburn of the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry who died from wounds received at the engagement at High Bridge, Virginia. They were younger brothers of Wor. John D. Washburn, Master of Montacute in 1862-63.

## MONTACUTE HALL

Up to this time Montacute Lodge had been sub-renting Waldo Hall from Morning Star Lodge. The rent, at first \$60 per annum, was increased to \$75 in April, 1859. In June, 1861 it was again raised to \$100 to be retroactive to April. This raise did not meet with favor in Montacute Lodge and payment was held up. On August 13th a communication was received from Morning Star Lodge stating that unless the \$25 due for the quarter ending July 1st be paid by the next regular meeting of Morning Star, the future occupancy of the rooms by Montacute Lodge must be prohibited. It was voted to place the letter on file and a committee was appointed to procure a suitable place for future meetings.

The next seven meetings were held in the rooms of Bro. Charles H. Jencks, a dentist and a member of the Lodge.

The committee under the leadership of the Master, Wor. George W. Bentley, immediately went to work and fitted up a hall on the top floor of the Bank Block on Foster Street. This building is now occupied in part by the Worcester County Electric Co. The Lodge room, named Montacute Hall, was dedicated by M.W. William D. Coolidge, Grand Master, assisted by the officers of the Grand Lodge on the afternoon of November 12, 1861. At the annual meeting of the Lodge, held in the evening, the new officers were installed by the Grand Master. The three York Rite Bodies occupied the hall jointly with Montacute Lodge.

At this period the Lodge was repeatedly indebted to members looking out for its welfare. At the communication just mentioned the Master transmitted to the Lodge a letter from Bro. George Phelps, one of the first class to be raised, with an accompanying gift. This letter said in part: "Accidentally, however, I discovered a short time since, that as a Lodge we were not the owners of the one 'Great Light' of our order, viz. the Holy Bible. Being one of Montacute's oldest children it seemed not inappropriate, that, at a time when we were about to dedicate a new house, I should be the donor of the 'one thing needful.'"

Just a year later Wor. William A. Smith spoke "in regard to the liberality of individual members of Montacute Lodge in furnishing and decorating the Hall, but more particularly of Bro. Timothy W. Wellington." Brother Wellington had handed to Wor. Bro. Smith a paid bill for \$125 for decorating the walls of Montacute Hall with Masonic symbols and emblems. Among other gifts was that of an organ from R.W. Henry Goddard.

#### FIRST PROXY

In 1863 we find the first record of the appointment of a proxy to the Grand Lodge.

#### MUSIC IN LODGE

Vocal music has at times played a part in the meetings and ceremonies of Montacute Lodge. In 1863 (Dec. 8) it was voted to authorize the Worshipful Master to purchase for the use of the Lodge one dozen copies of a book of hymns and songs suitable for

Masonic Lodges called "The Masonic Harp." Later copies of another book entitled "The Masonic Choir" were bought. In 1875 a Committee on Music was appointed which reported that it had obtained the services of an organist and recommended congregational singing with the organist for leader, rather than paid singers. In later years when, perhaps, the finances were in better condition, a paid quartette was used whenever the Third Degree was worked. As late as 1927 the Master, Wor. D. Chester May, attempted to introduce singing at the opening and closing ceremonies but without much success. At present the use of vocal music in the working of the degrees is only occasional.

#### BOSTON TEMPLE CORNERSTONE LAYING

Quoting our fiftieth anniversary historian: "It appears that the brethren, on Friday, October 14, 1864, had to get up rather early in the morning for, at 6:30 o'clock A.M., the members of Montacute Lodge, together with several visiting brethren, assembled at Montacute Hall for the purpose of proceeding to Boston by invitation of the Grand Lodge of this State, to assist in laying the cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple. The Lodge was organized, waiving the usual ceremonies, with Bro. Benjamin Lewis, Worshipful Master, in the chair." They proceeded by the Boston & Worcester Railroad to Boston, where they arrived about nine o'clock and took the position assigned them in the parade.

#### "LOW ESTATE OF TREASURY"

That Montacute's treasury was not overflowing at this period is shown by the report of a committee to the effect that it was inexpedient to purchase a fireproof safe for the records of the Lodge "owing to the low estate of Montacute's Treasury and the high cost of safes." Also a request of the Tyler for an increase in his fee was denied. At the same meeting the By-Laws were amended raising the degree fee from \$20 to \$30.

#### ATHELSTAN LODGE CONSTITUTED

Athelstan Lodge was constituted in 1866 and twenty-four

demitted from Montacute to become Charter Members. Seven of them had been Charter Members of Montacute Lodge, one was a Past Master (Wor. John D. Washburn) and others had been zealous workers in the Lodge. Montacute Lodge granted them free use of the hall and the Lodge jewels while working under dispensation. The first three Masters of Athelstan Lodge, Wor. Henry Goddard, Wor. Samuel T. Bigelow and Wor. Edwin P. Woodward, had been members of Montacute Lodge.

#### REMOVAL TO PEARL STREET

Shortly before the annual communication of 1865, on the motion of Wor. William A. Smith, the Lodge voted to invite the wives and lady friends of the members to witness the ceremonies of the next installation. Accordingly, on November 21st, Montacute Lodge held its first public installation. The Master installed was William S. Goodwin and the installing officer was the Grand Master, M.W. William Parkman. Following the ceremonies a bountiful repast was provided in the Banquet Hall. After a few short speeches the Lodge was closed at low twelve, waiving all ceremony. The wish was expressed by many that a public installation might become an annual recurrence. However, it was not until 1869 that one was attempted again. Public installations have not been popular in Montacute Lodge for on only one other occasion has one been held. This was in 1941, when Earl C. Richards became Master. The installing officer was the then Worshipful Thomas S. Roy, who was assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge.

In 1866 (February 13) a committee was appointed, in the words of the records, "to confer with like committees from other Masonic bodies of this city relative to a proposition of certain capitalists to prepare a suite of rooms in a building about to be erected on Pearl Street in this city for use of the various Masonic bodies." There were then seven Masonic bodies in Worcester including Morning Star Lodge which was still meeting in the Waldo Block. Worcester Lodge of Perfection of the Scottish Rite and Athelstan Lodge had been organized since our removal to Montacute Hall. These seven bodies leased for twenty years the third and fourth floors of the new building, which became known as the "Post Office Building" as the Worcester Post Office was located on the street floor. Two

Lodge rooms, the "Blue Room" and the "Red Room," were on the third floor and the fourth floor was used as a Banquet Hall.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of June 17, 1867 Montacute Lodge assembled with Morning Star and Athelstan Lodges at Horticultural Hall, then on Front Street, to receive the Grand Master and suite. They were introduced by Bro. James D. Blake, Mayor of Worcester, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Apartments and a member of Montacute Lodge. A procession was then formed and, under escort of Worcester County Encampment of Knights Templar, passed through some of the principal streets to the Bay State House, where it was dismissed. In the evening the brethren reassembled at the new Masonic Apartments. A Lodge was opened with the Master of Morning Star Lodge in the East, the Master of Montacute in the West and the Master of Athelstan in the South. The other stations were filled by officers of the three Lodges. Montacute Lodge was represented by its Senior Warden, Bro. Emery Wilson, who acted as Treasurer, and its Junior Warden, Bro. John W. Jordan, who served as Junior Deacon. The apartments were then dedicated by M.W. Charles C. Dame, Grand Master, and the officers of the Grand Lodge.

The last meeting in Montacute Hall had been held on April 16th. For the next three meetings the Lodge moved back temporarily to the Waldo Block. Notice was received that every Monday evening had been designated as the time when Montacute Lodge could occupy the new Lodge room. Since that time the communications have been regularly held on Monday. The first one in the new hall was on June 20, 1867 for the purpose of working the Third Degree.

#### DEDICATION OF BOSTON TEMPLE

A week after the dedication of the Pearl Street Apartments the Lodge again travelled to Boston to participate in the dedication of the new Temple there. This time the members had to arise even earlier than on the previous visit, for they assembled at five o'clock A.M. A special train on the Boston & Worcester R.R. conveyed them to Boston where they arrived at 8 o'clock and proceeded to the Common for the formation of the parade. Only the Master and Wardens attended the ceremonies of dedication. After their conclusion the procession began to move through some of the principal

streets to Music Hall where an address was delivered by Rev. Bro. William S. Studley. The train left for the return trip to Worcester at eight o'clock P.M.

### THE MONTACUTE BANNER

In anticipation of these public appearances the Lodge felt it should have a banner and a committee was appointed the preceding February. At the April regular the committee submitted a Banner, the gift of our member, Bro. James H. Wall, Jr. It has been described as "a beautiful emblem, the material of which was white satin on which were emblazoned the arms and motto of Lord Montacute together with the three Great Lights and the date of the institution of the Lodge." However, the lapse of time has long since caused its destruction.

### MONTACUTE OR MONTAGUE

Apparently some of the brethren were not satisfied in their minds as to whether Montacute Lodge was properly named. On November 1, 1869 the following action was taken: "On motion of Bro. William A. Smith, it was Voted, that the first three officers of this Lodge memorialize the Grand Lodge that the vexed question whether the name of the lord from whom this Lodge was named was Montacute or Montague be settled." At the next quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge a committee was appointed consisting of Past Grand Masters John T. Heard and Winslow Lewis and the Master of Montacute Lodge, Wor. Henry C. Willson to

1st. Determine whether the title of Viscount, created in 1554, in favor of Sir Anthony Brown, was Montacute or Montague and

2nd. Ascertain what were the arms of the family of Anthony Brown.

The committee made a very thorough investigation and reported a year later, December 14, 1870. They submitted evidence, both Masonic and other than Masonic. The Masonic evidence included records of the Grand Lodge of England and the Saint John's Grand Lodge (Massachusetts) and Constitutions printed both in England and America. The other than Masonic evidence was from various

publications, works on the peerage of England, the lineage of the family of Anthony Brown, the Viscount for whom our Lodge is named, monumental inscriptions, a copy of the patent creating the first Sir Anthony Brown a Viscount, armorial devices and many other documents. The report covered over one hundred pages in the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge. This evidence was very conflicting. Quoting from the report: "in several cases the same author refers to it (the title of the viscountancy) in one place as Montague or Montagu and in another as Montacute." The committee quoted one authority as saying: "alluding to both names, they referred to a sharp-hill in Somersetshire, 'from which the illustrious family of Montacute, sometimes earls of Salisbury, took their surname.'" The Latin derivation would be *mons, m.*, a high hill, and *acutus, adj.*, sharp; the French, *mont, m.*, mountain, and *aigu, adj.*, *m.*, and *aigue, f.*, sharp. Public documents and records, after the conquest, were sometimes written in one and sometimes in the other of these tongues; so that it is probable that the names and titles mentioned therein took a form suited to the language employed.

Anthony Brown was a descendant of the Montacutes, but the name and title had long since lapsed. He was the sixth Viscount and the patent creating his ancestor, the first Viscount, in every instance is given as "Montague."

In commenting on the coat of arms, the committee said that it is not probable that the Viscounts had particular arms representing their honorary title. On the seal of Montacute Lodge the 1st and 4th quarters of the arms bear those of the Brown family, while the 2nd and 3rd quarters those of the Montacutes.

The report concluded with these recommendations:

1st. That Montacute Lodge have leave, on their petitioning therefor, to change their name to Montague Lodge, and

2nd. That, as the Grand Lodge has hitherto permitted Lodges to determine what devices their respective seals should bear, Montacute be free to continue to use their present seal or to change the devices thereon according to their taste and inclination.

A few years later M.W. Bro. Heard sent to Montacute Lodge a clipping from a Masonic periodical, the "Keystone," which reported a statement in 1874 of the Lord Chancellor of England in the course of a legal examination. He said that it appeared to him "that not-

withstanding the difference in style, which is merely apparent and not real, because the names 'Montague' and 'Montacute' appear to have been used, both at this time and for many hundreds of years before, interchangeably, and in point of fact, were one and the same word." In his letter accompanying the clipping Wor. Bro. Heard said: "You will observe that the titles were used for centuries interchangeably according to the highest authority of the present day.

As further evidence of this interchangeability reference is made to an item in a recent English publication, "The Pocket History of Free-Masonry" by Pick and Knight. In 1721, another Montague had been chosen Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. He was John, Duke of Montague. In 1930 when the new Bank of England was being built a "Foundation Stone" was uncovered, having inscribed upon it the names of two men designated as Masons and underneath, the words:

Anno Masonry 5722  
Ld. Montacute, G. Master

Montacute never availed itself of the permission to change its name. Whatever may have been the correct title of the Viscount, our Lodge has now borne the name Montacute for one hundred years.

#### PAST MASTERS' JEWELS

We find that on December 6, 1869 a gold Past Master's jewel was presented to Wor. John W. Jordan, who had recently retired as Master. This is the first record we have of the presentation of such a jewel. Brother Jordan, in turn, "surprised the Lodge" with the gift of four "beautiful" silver Past Masters' jewels with collars for the same. These were to be the property of the Lodge for the use of any Past Master who might attend the meetings in the same manner as we now furnish aprons for the members attending Lodge. The same year a similar jewel was bestowed on Past Master William S. Goodwin as a Christmas gift. Wor. Bro. Goodwin was then in his last illness and died a few days later. Many years later this jewel was returned to the Lodge by Wor. Bro. Goodwin's daughter and is now in our archives. It differs in design from those now used. A few months later Past Master Emery Wilson emulated Wor. Bro.

Jordan and, as stated in the record, the Lodge was again "surprised" by the gift of four beautiful Past Masters' aprons. From this time jewels were given irregularly for awhile, the expense being borne by subscriptions by the members. One was presented to our first Master, Wor. William A. Smith, in 1871. In 1880 it was voted to procure jewels for the two Past Masters most recently in office at the expense of the Lodge and since that time it has been the custom to present each retiring Master a jewel to be paid for out of the Lodge treasury.

#### GRAND LODGE TAXES OR DUES

In 1867 the Grand Lodge laid a "capitation tax" on all affiliated Masons of one dollar per year for a period of thirteen years. A member could "commute," as it was called, by paying ten dollars at once and thereafter be exempt from the yearly payments. This tax was for the purpose of paying off the indebtedness of the Grand Lodge on the new Boston Masonic Temple. In 1868 Montacute Lodge raised its degree fee ten dollars, the fee to include the applicant's commutation to the Grand Lodge.

At the end of the thirteen-year period the Grand Lodge indebtedness had not been wiped out and the capitation tax was extended for fifteen years from September 1, 1879. As before, members could commute by payment of ten dollars. The Grand Lodge made efforts to induce the Lodges to commute as a whole. On August 7, 1882 the Grand Master, M.W. Samuel C. Lawrence, paid a visit to Montacute Lodge for the purpose of inducing it to commute as a whole. After he had been received the Master informed him that his wishes had already been acceded to, for the Lodge had passed the necessary vote just previous to his entrance.

After the expiration of the fifteen-year period no further Grand Lodge taxes were levied on the members until 1924, when the present Grand Lodge dues were adopted. They were at first two dollars per year, raised to three dollars in 1949.

#### REMOVAL OF REMAINS OF ISAIAH THOMAS TO RURAL CEMETERY

On Saint John's Day, June 24, 1878, the remains of Isaiah Thomas, the first Master of Morning Star Lodge and a Past Grand

Master, were transferred from the old Mechanic Street Burial Ground, which was being discontinued, to Rural Cemetery under the direction of the municipal authorities of Worcester. The Grand Lodge had accepted an invitation from the civic authorities to take part in the services. On this occasion Montacute Lodge participated with all the other Worcester Masonic bodies, the Grand Lodge, Grand Royal Arch Chapter, the city government, members of the Thomas family and various civic organizations with which Isaiah Thomas had been associated. Montacute Lodge did not appear as a separate organization. Its members and those of other Lodges marched in the procession with Morning Star Lodge. The procession stopped at Mechanics Hall where Mayor Charles B. Pratt, a member of Montacute Lodge, introduced the speakers, representing the American Antiquarian Society, the Press and other organizations. After these exercises the procession was re-formed and moved to Rural Cemetery where the remains were re-committed in the family tomb with the Masonic burial service conducted by the Grand Master, M.W. Charles A. Welch. Bearers were four Past Masters, one from each of the Worcester Lodges. Wor. William A. Smith represented Montacute Lodge. One-half of the cost of the new lot in Rural Cemetery was borne by the Worcester Masonic Lodges. Montacute's share was fifty dollars.

#### QUINSIGAMOND LODGE CHARTERED

In 1871 Montacute Lodge again contributed to the formation of a new Lodge when six of its members demitted to become charter members of Quinsigamond Lodge. Of this group Bro. Henry C. Wadsworth became the first Master.

#### RESIGNATION OF MASTER

Bro. Quincy A. Thomas was elected Master in 1882. He resigned the next March owing to a change in his business. The Senior Warden, Bro. Herbert J. Fisher, was chosen to fill the vacancy. Wor. Bro. Fisher was re-elected at the next annual communication, but declined to be installed and a special election had to be held. This is the only occasion when a Master of Montacute Lodge has resigned, or when one who has been elected to the office has refused to accept.

## NON-OBSERVANCE OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY

For reasons not given a committee reported in 1884 that it was inexpedient to observe the twenty-fifth anniversary of the institution of the Lodge.

## PRINTED NOTICES OF MEETINGS

The custom of sending printed notices of all communications to the members was begun in 1889. The use of newspaper notices was discontinued.

## THE BOARD OF RELIEF AND THE MASONIC BURIAL LOT

In 1894 a plan was proposed for the formation of a Board of Relief whose main duty would be to look after transient relief cases. This board superseded a General Relief Committee which had existed since 1871 and was composed of one member from each of the Worcester Masonic Bodies. In 1899 the Board brought to the attention of the fraternity the need of a Masonic burial lot in one of the cemeteries. Montacute Lodge voted to contribute its share, \$45, for the purchase of a lot in Hope Cemetery. A few years later the Lodges erected on it a monument in the form of a Masonic altar on which was a closed Bible and the square and compasses. Wor. H. Lyman Rawson, when he was Master in 1928, conceived the idea of having flowers planted around the monument before each Memorial Day. He interested the Masters of the other Lodges in sharing the expense. Under Montacute leadership a yearly planting was made until 1944. In that year the Worcester Masonic Charity and Educational Association acquired title to the lot from the old Board of Relief and since has assumed care of it.

## THE WORCESTER MASONIC CHARITY AND EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO BUILD A MASONIC TEMPLE

After the Fraternity had occupied the Pearl Street Apartments for nearly thirty years it was natural that it should be thinking of a Temple of its own. As early as 1885 dissatisfaction with the quarters and the need for enlarged accommodations had been ex-

pressed. The rooms had been well managed by an organization called the Directors of the Masonic Fraternity consisting of three representatives from each of the Masonic bodies. In 1893 this Board was incorporated as the Trustees of the Masonic Fraternity of Worcester. It is now dormant although still in existence.

At the regular communication in July, 1895 a resolution was adopted approving organizing and incorporating a Masonic Building Association for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a Masonic Temple in Worcester. Such an organization was formed, and was called "The General Masonic Committee of 33," which was incorporated the next year (1896) as the "Worcester Masonic Charity and Educational Association." Montacute Lodge chose as its first representatives Brothers James Logan, Charles S. Chapin, and Abram A. Rheutan. Mass meetings of the Fraternity were held in Horticultural Hall; committees appointed on Site, Finance, and Building; and many pledges and contributions were received. For awhile much enthusiasm for the project was shown. The Committee on Sites, of which our member, Bro. James Logan was chairman, examined no less than thirty-five pieces of property and finally settled on the lot on which the present Temple stands. It was purchased in September, 1896.

Then the enthusiasm began to wane. To finance the project the Association had proposed that each Masonic body adopt amendments to its By-Laws providing, among other things, that for twenty-five years each initiate should contribute ten dollars and each member, including Life Members, be assessed two dollars per year. These amendments were duly proposed in Montacute Lodge, but were rejected by a vote of 77 to 1 at the regular meeting in February, 1898. At about this time the Grand Lodge was considering assessing all members a dollar a year to build up the Grand Lodge charity funds. This proposal also met with disfavor in Montacute Lodge. In only two of the eleven bodies were the amendments adopted. Many felt that the cost of the Temple as planned was excessive; others were dissatisfied with the site; and the project was given up until it was revived eleven years later.

## THE WAR OF 1898

The year was 1898 and again the war drums were sounding.

The Secretary, Bro. Harry A. Marvin, answered the call of his country. Bro. Ephraim H. H. Wilson was chosen as his successor and served for nineteen years. Only three of his predecessors had served for as much as six or seven years, all but one of the others only one, two or three years each.

### PAST MASTERS' NIGHTS

The first recorded Past Masters' Night was held on April 17, 1905, with our first Master, R.W. William A. Smith, in attendance. Another was not held until May 22, 1916, when seventeen of the twenty-six living Past Masters were present. In more recent years a Past Masters' Night has become an annual event.

### FATHERS AND SONS IN OFFICE

November 26, 1906 Past Master Frank M. Heath had the pleasure of installing his son, Austin A. Heath, as Master of Montacute Lodge. Two years later, with Austin Heath as Marshal, he seated another son, Melville F. Heath, in the oriental chair. This is the only father and son combination in the Mastership of Montacute Lodge. However, in the Treasurership there are two such instances, one being a father, son and grandson combination. Bro. John F. Howell (serving 17 years), his son, Bro. John H. Howell (9 years), and, after an interim, his grandson, Wor. Leonard W. Howell, the present incumbent (9 years to date), have held the office for 35 years. Bro. Edward M. Woodward (8 years) and his son R.W. Edward M. Woodward, Jr. (12 years) held the Lodge's purse strings for twenty years.

### THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Montacute Lodge was now approaching its fiftieth year. At the regular communication held on the 4th day of March, 1907, upon motion of Wor. George M. Rice, it was voted to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the institution of the Lodge and that the Worshipful Master, at some future meeting, appoint a committee of five with power to make all necessary arrangements therefor.

At the regular communication on the 6th day of May following,

Wor. George M. Rice was, by a rising vote, unanimously elected to prepare and deliver an historical address on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary. At the same meeting the Master appointed the Committee on Arrangements, namely: R.W. Forrest E. Barker, Wor. Bros. Frank M. Heath, Robert W. Clifford, Fred M. Sampson, and Bro. William W. Brown. A year later Wor. Austin A. Heath, the junior Past Master, who had appointed the committee and actively cooperated in its work, was elected by formal vote of the Lodge a member of the committee.

At the regular communication on December 2, 1907 the Trustees of the Permanent Fund were, by unanimous vote, instructed to pay into the treasury of the Lodge, upon order of the chairman of the committee on semi-centennial, such a sum or sums, not exceeding at total of \$1,000.00, as might from time to time be needed for account of the celebration.

In accordance with the plans worked out by the committee, a special communication of Montacute Lodge was opened at ten o'clock in the forenoon of Sunday, June 21, 1908 with the officers and one hundred and ninety-four brethren present. The Grand Master, M.W. J. Albert Blake and suite were received. Then it was announced that the Lodge had accepted an invitation from Rev. Bro. Vincent E. Tomlinson, a member of Montacute Lodge, to attend divine worship at the First Universalist Church. The Lodge was formed in procession and marched to the church on Pleasant Street where an "impressive and interesting sermon, especially suited to the occasion," was delivered by Dr. Tomlinson. He was assisted during the responsive readings at the opening of the service by Bro. Joseph Jackson, Chaplain of the Lodge. After the service the Lodge returned to the Lodge room where it was called from labor to refreshment.

On Monday, June 22nd, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the Worshipful Master, for the purpose of continuing the celebration, called the Lodge from refreshment to labor and the Grand Master and suite were received. The exercises consisted of an address by Rev. Bro. R. Perry Bush; the reading of an original poem by Bro. Joseph Jackson, Chaplain of Montacute Lodge; the History of the Lodge (later printed) by Wor. George M. Rice; and selections by an eight-piece orchestral group composed of members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. At 6:30 two hundred and sixty brethren as-

sembled in Association Hall in the Y.M.C.A. Building on Elm Street where, after a prayer by the Grand Chaplain, a banquet was served. At its conclusion the Master introduced R.W. Forrest E. Barker as Toastmaster. The after-dinner speakers included the Grand Master, M.W. J. Albert Blake, and our first Master, R.W. William A. Smith. Among the guests was Bro. James Logan, Mayor of Worcester and a member of Montacute Lodge. At the conclusion of the speaking the officers returned to the Lodge Room where Montacute Lodge was called from refreshment to labor and closed in form.

## THE MASONIC HOME

Automobiles were more of a novelty then than now. To entertain the Grand Officers on Sunday afternoon they were taken on an automobile trip to Fitchburg, where dinner was served, thence to the "Hotel Overlook" at Charlton, now the Masonic Home. At the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge in December, 1908 the Masonic Home Committee recommended the purchase of the Overlook property and immediately after the adoption of the recommendation one of our Past Masters and a Past Senior Grand Warden, R.W. Forrest E. Barker "tendered the furnishing of a room by Montacute Lodge in the new Masonic Home Building." (Grand Lodge Proceedings, Dec. 9, 1908, p. 206.) This offer was put into effect the next year by the appropriation of \$100 for the purpose. The Overlook property was purchased in 1909 and in accordance with the Grand Master's request to all Lodges, the Worshipful Master appointed a committee to solicit funds for the Masonic Home. An average of more than five dollars per member was raised which placed Montacute Lodge on the Honor List. The Home was dedicated by the Grand Lodge on May 25, 1911, and soon thereafter the first resident was admitted, a Past Master of Montacute Lodge, Wor. George M. Taylor.

## THE WORCESTER TEMPLE

In 1909 interest in the building of a Masonic Temple in Worcester was revived. In May of 1910 a plan of action was submitted to Montacute Lodge, as it was to the other Masonic Bodies,

and it was voted that "it is the opinion of the Lodge that the efforts of the Worcester Masonic Charity and Educational Association and the enterprise as a whole as outlined be approved and a committee appointed to consider what action should be taken." The plan was for each body to contribute from its funds as liberally as possible and for individual subscriptions to be solicited. Montacute Lodge raised its degree fee \$25, the additional amount being placed in a Masonic Temple Fund. This time the enterprise was carried to a successful conclusion. On Friday, September 12, 1913, the cornerstone was laid by the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Herbert E. Fletcher and the officers of the Grand Lodge. Just previous to the ceremony Montacute Lodge participated with the other Worcester Lodges in a parade under escort of Worcester County Commandery from the old apartments on Pearl Street through Chestnut, Harvard, and Highland Streets to Lincoln Square and thence down Main Street to Ionic Avenue and the site of the Temple.

A year later on September 3, 1914, the new Temple was dedicated by M.W. Melvin M. Johnson, Grand Master, and officers of the Grand Lodge. Again Montacute Lodge participated in a parade in the forenoon, the ceremony of dedication was in the afternoon, and a banquet was held at the Bancroft Hotel in the evening.

The last meeting of Montacute Lodge at Pearl Street was on June 15, 1914 and its first meeting in the new Temple was the regular communication of July 6th, even before the dedication and before the interior was entirely completed or furnishings installed. By agreement of the four Lodges the first work in the new Temple was on Tuesday evening, September 8th. Officers of Morning Star Lodge opened that Lodge on the Third Degree and worked the first section on three candidates. Wor. Albert R. Webb, Master of Montacute Lodge, assisted by his officers, then raised the first candidate, followed by the raising of the other two candidates by Athelstan and Quinsigamond Lodges.

#### DEATH OF R.W. WILLIAM A. SMITH

R.W. William A. Smith, our first Master, then in his ninetieth year, was present at the ceremonies attending the laying of the cornerstone of the new Temple. The Lodge was saddened less than two weeks later by his death. At the time of his passing he was the

oldest graduate of Harvard College, the oldest member of the Worcester County Bar, and had been clerk and treasurer of the Worcester County Mechanics Association for forty-three years. In Masonry, besides being Master of Montacute Lodge, he had been appointed District Deputy Grand Master, but had to resign because of ill health. He had been Thrice Illustrious Master of Hiram Council, R. & S.M., and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Massachusetts. In the Scottish Rite he had attained the thirty-third degree and honorary membership in the Supreme Council. A Masonic funeral was held by Montacute Lodge at Grace Methodist Church, of which he was a member, on September 27, 1913.

### LADIES' NIGHTS

The brethren were proud of their new Temple and wanted their womenfolk to enjoy it with them. And so, why not a Ladies' Night? Plans were perfected and one was held following the regular communication on the fifth of April, 1915. This was Montacute's first Ladies' Night other than those held in connection with public installations. They are now almost a yearly occurrence.

### DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

At the regular communication in May, 1916 it was voted that the representatives of Montacute Lodge to the Worcester Masonic Charity and Educational Association be instructed that it was the sense of Montacute Lodge that the national flag be displayed on the outside of the Temple; also that the Master take up the matter of having it displayed in the Lodge room. Both of these suggestions were carried out.

### DEGREE TEAMS

The first record we have of an outside degree team working a degree is in that of the special communication of May 28, 1917, when the Trowel Club of New England raised a candidate. Since that time such events have been of somewhat frequent occurrence. Teams made up of brethren connected with various firms, indus-

tries, or professions, or associated with certain social, fraternal, or church groups have worked. One of the most colorful of these has been the Scottish Hiram Associates, appearing in kilt and sporran and accompanied by the bagpipe and drum.

## WORLD WAR I

1917, and our country was engaged in the First World War. 36 Montacute members are listed as entering the armed forces. War conditions disrupted the ordinary procedure of our meetings. In January, 1918 a dispensation was received from the Grand Master to hold our regular meetings up to and including March 28, 1918, upon the most convenient night subsequent to the dates of the regular meetings because of the government ban on meetings on Monday evenings to conserve coal. Also our attention was called to a Fuel Commission order in regard to the use of light after 10 P.M.

July 10 1918, the Master, Wor. Burt W. Greenwood, and some of the officers paid a visit to Caleb Butler Lodge at Ayer. That Lodge was overwhelmed with candidates from Camp Devens and welcomed the assistance of neighboring Lodges. We raised nine candidates that evening.

During the war the Grand Lodge established a War Relief Fund for the assistance of brethren in the service and their dependents. Members of Montacute Lodge contributed \$1,015.00 to this fund.

On the evening of November 11, 1918, the day the armistice was signed and the war ended, Montacute Lodge happened to be having the annual visitation of the District Deputy Grand Master.

## ISAIAH THOMAS LODGE INSTITUTED

In January, 1921 another Lodge was instituted in Worcester, Isaiah Thomas. Nine members of Montacute Lodge were among the twenty-seven charter members. Unlike previous instances, they were not required to demit as plural membership was now permitted. R.W. Matthew J. Whittall and Brother Edward M. Woodward were the first Wardens and Brothers William W. Brown and Arthur B. Chapin the first Deacons. All were members of Montacute Lodge and all became Masters of Isaiah Thomas.

## DEATH OF BRO. HENRY H. FLINT, TYLER

In 1920 occurred the death of our Tyler, Bro. Henry H. Flint. Brother Flint was a member of Morning Star Lodge, but had been Tyler of all the Worcester Lodges for nearly fifty years. A Commandery funeral was held in the Egyptian Chamber of the Temple. As a token of respect to Bro. Flint the Master of Morning Star Lodge opened his Lodge with the Masters of Montacute and Athelstan Lodges in the West and South respectively, while the Masters of Quinsigamond and Isaiah Thomas acted as Marshal and Junior Deacon. The Masters then attended the service in a body.

## “SANDY” FOULDS

October 31, 1921 Wor. Alexander Foulds, affectionately known as “Sandy,” was escorted into the Lodge and celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as a member by working the Master Mason degree. Wor. Brother Foulds had been Master in 1890-91. The District Deputy Grand Master presented to him a Henry Price Medal, which was then awarded for fifty years’ membership.

## CANCELLATION OF TEMPLE DEBT

About this time it was felt that the time had come to cancel the remaining debt on the Temple property. The object was attained through contributions from the various bodies and some individual gifts. Montacute Lodge contributed \$5000 from its Permanent Fund.

## VISITS BY GRAND MASTERS PRINCE AND FERRILL

April 25, 1921 the Lodge was pleased to receive a visit from M.W. Arthur D. Prince, Grand Master, who told of his recent visit to the Lodges in the Canal Zone.

We were again honored on October 19, 1925 with a visit by the Grand Master, this time M.W. Dudley H. Ferrill. He presented Henry Price Medals to Wor. Herbert J. Fisher and Bro. James Logan.

### Gov. Cox GUEST OF THE LODGE

A special communication was called on April 28, 1924, for the purpose of receiving as guest of the Lodge Bro. Channing H. Cox, Governor of Massachusetts. He was escorted to the West of the Altar and introduced by Wor. Burt W. Greenwood. Bro. James Logan presented him to the brethren for his address. At its conclusion R.W. Frederick W. Southwick, in behalf of the Lodge, presented a Masonic apron to our guest, who, in turn, in behalf of the Grand Master, pinned on Brother Southwick's coat a Henry Price Medal (for fifty years' membership).

### THE MASONIC VETERANS' MEDAL

In 1926 the Grand Lodge established the Masonic Veterans' Medal to be given for fifty years' membership in place of the Henry Price Medal, which thereafter was only to be awarded by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge to distinguished brethren deemed worthy of special Masonic recognition.

On May 27, 1927 M.W. Frank L. Simpson, Grand Master, paid a visit to Montacute Lodge for the purpose of presenting Veterans' Medals to fifteen members of the Lodge eligible to receive them. Twelve were present and medals were later given to three others at their homes. Up to August 31, 1958, sixty-six of our older brethren have been thus honored.

### THIRD DEGREE AT MASONIC HOME

A special communication of the Lodge was held on June 1, 1927 at the Masonic Home when the Third Degree was worked on four candidates. The charge was given by Wor. Albion R. Libby, a Past Master of Soley Lodge of Somerville, and a resident of the Home.

### FOURTH ESTATE LODGE AT INSTALLATION OF BRO. H. LYMAN RAWSON

When Bro. H. Lyman Rawson was elected Master in 1927, he invited Wor. Charles C. Balcom, a Past Master of Fourth Estate Lodge of Boston, to install him. The installing officer was accom-

panied by a large delegation from that Lodge. Brother Rawson was a pressman at the *Worcester Telegram* and *Gazette* and the Fourth Estate Lodge is made up of newspapermen.

#### PLANTING OF THE MONTACUTE MAPLE AT MASONIC HOME

The Lodge again journeyed to the Masonic Home on Saturday, May 19, 1928. At five o'clock a rock maple, donated by our member, Bro. Charles H. Fish, was planted, then followed a box lunch. In the evening the Master Mason degree was again worked, with many residents of the Home in attendance.

#### THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday evening, June 21, 1928, the seventieth anniversary of the institution of Montacute Lodge was observed. The Senior Past Master, Wor. Herbert J. Fisher, was invited to occupy the East, Wor. Alexander Foulds the West and Wor. Albert R. Webb the South. All were seventy years or more in age. Special seventieth anniversary medals were presented to all who were seventy years old or older, and so living when the Lodge was instituted. There were fifty-three of these (7% of the membership), of whom twenty-three were present. Among those in attendance were two who had taken part twenty years before in the fiftieth anniversary celebration. They were Rev. Bro. Vincent E. Tomlinson, who was the preacher at the church service, and Bro. Frank Roe Batchelder of Athelstan Lodge, who wrote an original poem for our fiftieth anniversary and another for this occasion. In the record of this communication is the following letter addressed to the Worshipful Master and members at the one hundredth anniversary:

Worcester, Mass., June 21, 1928.

To the Worshipful Master  
(June 1958)

My dear Worshipful Master:

As Worshipful Master, and in behalf of the Officers and Members of Montacute Lodge here assembled at its Seventieth Anniversary Exercises, June 21, 1928, we extend to the Master,

Officers and Members of Montacute Lodge at its One Hundredth Anniversary in 1958, our sincere greetings and fraternal felicitations.

May its life, service and prestige remain on that high plane amongst Masonic Lodges as has been its fortune since its institution.

Fraternally yours,

H. Lyman Rawson  
Master

### THE AUSTIN CANE

In November, 1931 the Lodge received a cane which had been given to Wor. H. Lyman Rawson by our late Brother, Waldo E. Austin, who had suggested that it be the property of the Lodge, but lent to the oldest member in point of membership for the remainder of his life. The cane was made from a piece of wood which had been sent to Brother Austin from Mount Shasta, California, some forty years previously by his brother-in-law. Wor. Bro. Rawson caused a head, properly lettered, to be placed on it. The next October he had the pleasure of presenting the Austin cane to our senior member at the time, Bro. E. Frank Bliven, a Mason of fifty-nine years' standing. In his response Brother Bliven said: "Although I have reached years beyond the average life of man, I stand before you without any need whatever of this cane. So if you will direct me what to do with it, I will be glad to carry out your wishes." Brother Bliven, however, took the cane but soon after returned it to the Lodge. The cane has not again been placed in the hands of any of our senior members.

### THE MASONIC HOSPITAL, JUNIPER HALL

In 1927 the widow of our member, R.W. Matthew J. Whittall, gave to the Grand Lodge the beautiful estate in Shrewsbury known as Juniper Hall, which had been their residence, to be used as a Masonic Hospital. The Grand Lodge called for contributions from the membership for the purpose of helping pay the expense of an addition to the property and to establish a fund, the income of which would be used for its maintenance. In January, 1932 Montacute Lodge received from the Grand Lodge a "Certificate of Honor"

showing that we had given an average of over two dollars per member, based on the membership on the previous August 31st. (The actual amount contributed was six dollars per member, or \$4,579.00).

### THE "BANK HOLIDAY"

In 1933 came the so-called "Bank Holiday." Montacute Lodge's current funds were tied up in a closed bank, but fortunately \$1,000.00 could be obtained from our Permanent Fund which took care of our needs for the time being. In due course of time the money in the closed bank was released and the Permanent Fund reimbursed for the amount taken out.

### THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

1933 was another anniversary year, the seventy-fifth. On invitation of Rev. Bro. Thomas S. Roy, Senior Deacon, about seventy members and their families attended the First Baptist Church on Sunday, June 25th, as part of the anniversary observance. The subject of the sermon was "Noiseless Building." At a special communication on Monday evening an historical talk was given by one of our Past Masters, Wor. Fred M. Sampson.

### VISITS BY GRAND MASTERS CHIPMAN AND PERRY

M.W. Curtis Chipman, Grand Master, made a visit to the Worcester 22nd Masonic District on Monday, May 7, 1934. Montacute Lodge was the host Lodge. The Grand Master described the ceremonies of dedication of the Masonic Peace Memorial by the Grand Lodge of England, which he had attended.

In 1939 Montacute Lodge again acted as host Lodge when the Grand Master paid a visit to the Lodges of the 21st and 22nd Districts. The visitor this time was M.W. Joseph Earl Perry.

### DEATH OF WOR. ARTHUR L. STONE, SECRETARY

In September the brethren were shocked by the sudden death of our Secretary, Wor. Arthur L. Stone, who had served faith-

fully in that office for sixteen years. A Masonic funeral service was held in the Egyptian Chamber on the 23rd. He was succeeded by R.W. Edward M. Woodward, Jr., who was transferred from the Treasurer's station and served for the next twenty-three years, until September, 1957.

#### BAALIS SANFORD

September 21, 1936 R.W. Ralph Lowe, Jr., at the time Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, assisted by the officers of Baalis Sanford Lodge of Brockton, raised one of our candidates named Baalis Sanford. M.W. Baalis Sanford, Grand Master in 1903-05 and also at one time Grand High Priest, was an uncle of our candidate's father. Eight years later (1944) when our Baalis Sanford was installed as Master of Montacute Lodge, Baalis Sanford Lodge was again represented at the ceremony.

#### PRESENTATION OF 33° JEWEL TO R.W. E. M. WOODWARD, JR.

In the fall of 1941 (October 13) occurred an event which is rather unusual in a Symbolic Lodge, the presentation of a 33rd degree Scottish Rite jewel. One of Montacute's Past Masters and an officer of the Lodge (R.W. Edward M. Woodward, Jr., Secretary) had received the honor the preceding month. The Worshipful Master, Averill E. Cook, who conceived the idea of Montacute Lodge participating, was not then a Scottish Rite Mason. He has since become one and is past presiding officer of one of the Worcester bodies of the Rite. The speakers were M.W. Arthur D. Prince, who was present in the dual capacity of a Past Grand Master and Deputy for Massachusetts of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite; the Commander-in-Chief of Massachusetts Consistory, 32°, Bro. Norman K. Wiggin, who was also at the time Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts; Past Commander-in-Chief Theodore R. Lockwood; Bro. William A. Bennett of Athelstan Lodge, Mayor of Worcester; Wor. Thomas S. Roy, Orator of Lawrence Chapter of Rose Croix and the District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Eric A. Jacobson. The Worcester Scottish Rite Bodies entertained the guests at dinner previous to the meeting. Wor. Bro. Cook made the presentation.

## WORLD WAR II

On Sunday, December 7, 1941 came the attack on Pearl Harbor. At a communication of the Lodge the following evening, the Master, Wor. Earl C. Richards, commenting on the outbreak of war, said: "In this fateful hour we take pride in the fact that we are Americans. Masonry has in all our wars given of its best in the defense of our country. This war will furnish no exception to that established precedent. Several members of this Lodge are already in the armed forces of the United States. More will undoubtedly follow."

Before the war was over 77 are known to have entered. Included were our Junior Warden, Bro. Robert I. Johnston and one of our Past Masters, Wor. Cyril C. Lawton. Both chose to remain in the army when peace was again established. Lt. Col. Lawton died later while on duty in Japan and Maj. Johnston in this country. Before the war was over the Tyler, Bro. Conrad F. Edstrom and Bro. Robert S. Morrow, who was Marshal at the time, were called to the colors.

The Grand Lodge immediately set up a Military Service Fund. Members of Montacute contributed its quota. Later when a more extensive campaign was inaugurated for the purpose of raising funds to establish a Masonic Service Center at Ayer near Fort Devens, the Lodge loyally cooperated, in recognition of which it received a "Certificate of Patriotic Masonic Merit." Montacute's goal was \$2,400 and \$2,787.50 was contributed.

In the record of the May, 1945 regular communication we find the following: "On this day, May 7, 1945, unofficial news (confirmed officially on the following day) was received of the unconditional surrender of Germany to the allied armies. The Chaplain, Wor. Victor H. Jennings, in his opening prayer rendered thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for our being privileged to witness this partial return to peace. . . ." It is a coincidence that Montacute Lodge should have been in session on the day when World War I ended and when the European portion of World War II was concluded. Shortly after the end of the Japanese phase of the war, the Master, Wor. Baalis Sanford, commenting in Lodge on the end of hostilities, said "Montacute Lodge was particularly fortunate in that none of its members in the service had died and that none, so far as known, were severely injured."

### R.W. THOMAS S. ROY, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

In December, 1942 our Past Master, R.W. Thomas S. Roy, was appointed Deputy Grand Master on completion of service for a year as District Deputy Grand Master for the 22nd District. On the eighth day of the following March (1943) Montacute Lodge tendered a reception to him in the Egyptian Chamber. The occasion was graced by the presence of M.W. Albert A. Schaefer and other members of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master bestowed upon Dr. Roy a Henry Price Medal. Wor. G. Willard King presented him with a Deputy Grand Master's jewel in behalf of Montacute Lodge.

### THE EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

During its first half century Montacute Lodge had made no observance of its founding until the fiftieth anniversary celebration. Now that the Lodge was getting older the members' thoughts turned back to the beginnings. Mention has already been made of the notice given to the Lodge's seventieth and seventy-fifth years. June 21, 1943 happened to fall upon Monday. It was the eighty-fifth anniversary of Montacute's institution. A communication had been called for that evening for working the Master Mason degree. In order that the occasion might not pass without some notice being taken, the petition for dispensation and the dispensation issued eighty-five years earlier were read by the Secretary from the original records. At this communication the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Roy, raised Frederick J. Shaw, Jr., later to become Master.

### INNOVATIONS BY WOR. THOMAS E. CHRISTENSEN

Shortly before his retirement as Master, Wor. Thomas E. Christensen, now our Secretary, conceived the pleasing idea of extending greetings at a meeting of the Lodge to all who had been raised during the preceding year. Each lecturer presented those he had instructed. All who had been raised since November 1, 1943, twenty-six in number, were present.

When his successor was installed, Wor. Bro. Christensen presented to him a lapel button bearing the insignia of a Master, the square. This had been given to Bro. Christensen at his own installation. Since then it has been passed on from Master to Master.

### THE "CLASS OF 1920"

At the Past Masters' Night on May 14, 1945 R.W. Edward M. Woodward, Jr., the Secretary, celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary as Master of Montacute Lodge by raising a candidate in long form. He was presented a desk by R.W. Thomas S. Roy on behalf of the officers and Past Masters as a token of their esteem.

On June 25, 1945 R.W. Bro. Woodward was again on the receiving end, for the records say: "Just before the closing of the Lodge the Master stated that a surprise was in store for one of the members and requested those members who had been raised twenty-five years ago to assemble in the East. Seven of the members of this class formed in the East and one of their number, Bro. Walfred G. Burman, presented to R.W. Edward M. Woodward, Jr., during whose term as Master they had been raised, a gift of silver, emblematical of twenty-five years and in token of their respect and esteem." The money was later used by the Secretary to purchase a specially made "Chronological Membership Record Book" which he dedicated to the "Class of 1920."

### RECEPTION TO M.W. THOMAS S. ROY, GRAND MASTER

In December, 1950 the members of Montacute Lodge were thrilled by the election and installation of their Past Master, R.W. Thomas S. Roy, as Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. The new Grand Master chose Wor. Allen W. Hixon, of Montacute Lodge, as his Grand Sword Bearer. M.W. Brother Roy was raised in King Solomon Lodge, No. 54, Digby, Nova Scotia, and had been a member of Dalhousie Lodge, Newtonville, Mass.; Tuscan Lodge No. 195, London, Ontario, Canada and Paul Revere Lodge, Brockton, Mass., before applying to Montacute for affiliation.

The Master of Montacute Lodge in 1951 was Wor. Frederick J. Shaw, Jr., who had been sponsored and raised by M.W. Bro. Roy when he was Deputy Grand Master. Now, through a happy coincidence, Wor. Bro. Shaw, as Master, had the privilege of receiving M.W. Bro. Roy as Grand Master in Montacute Lodge at a reception given in the latter's honor on January 29, 1951. After the wants of the physical man had been satisfied at a dinner in the Banquet Hall, the brethren, numbering over three hundred, proceeded to the Egyptian Chamber, where the exercises were held. The Grand Mas-

ter and his suite were escorted into the Lodge by a committee of Past Masters under the chairmanship of Wor. Leonard W. Howell. Most Worshipful Brother Roy, occupying the East, called upon the following speakers: The Mayor of Worcester, Bro. Andrew B. Holmstrom of Athelstan Lodge; the District Deputy Grand Master for the 22nd District, R.W. Leonard Rawn; the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens, Right Worshipful Brothers Alton L. Miller, C. Weston Ringer and George E. Clapp; Past Grand Masters Claude L. Allen, Joseph Earl Perry, Samuel H. Wragg and Roger Keith; and in behalf of the First Baptist Church of which M.W. Bro. Roy was minister, Bro. Harry G. Stoddard of Athelstan Lodge. Then came the address of the Grand Master, dwelling particularly on his two predecessors who had Worcester connections Isaiah Thomas and Timothy Bigelow. After the flow of wit and wisdom from the distinguished guests the Master requested that R.W. G. Willard King, who had sponsored M.W. Bro. Roy when he applied to Montacute for affiliation and who had given him his first appointment as a line officer of Montacute, be conducted to the East. R.W. Bro. King presented a traveling bag to the Grand Master in behalf of the Past Masters. The Lodge was then closed in ample form. Quoting from the closing words of the record of the meeting: "Thus ended a unique incident in the history of Montacute Lodge, the like of which will not occur again for many, many years, if ever."

### THE TORNADO OF 1953

On June 9, 1953 a devastating tornado struck Worcester. The Master, Wor. Francis B. Page, announced in Lodge that he had personally visited seventy or more of our members in the tornado area. He stated that he found pride paramount among them and none would admit needing assistance from the Lodge. Later investigation indicated that assistance was needed by several. It was furnished from a fund established by Grand Lodge in part from its own funds and in part by contributions by some of the local collateral bodies and by individuals.

### RECOGNITION OF SENIOR MEMBERS

Wor. Bro. Page, during his term as Master, inaugurated the custom of presenting 40-year and 25-year lapel buttons to those

entitled. The first one, a 40-year button, was presented to M.W. Thomas S. Roy at a fraternal visit he made to the Lodge on May 25, 1953. At later communications buttons were given to all others entitled. The custom has been continued each year.

On September 28, 1953 the Lodge presented a Bible to Bro. Everett W. Woodhead in recognition of his having been a member for sixty years. He is now the senior in membership in Montacute Lodge.

### UNITED GO-TO-CHURCH SUNDAYS

In 1955 the Masonic bodies of Worcester and vicinity co-operated in planning a "United Go-to-Church Sunday." The first one was held on Sunday forenoon, May 1st., and it has now become a yearly event. One Lodge is opened and the brethren clothed in their Masonic aprons and under escort of Worcester County Commandery march to the church chosen by the committee. The sermon is given by some prominent clergyman who is a member of the Fraternity. Montacute Lodge was the Lodge opened in 1957.

### REGULAR AND ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS

From the institution of the Lodge until the removal to Pearl Street in 1867 Montacute Lodge met on Tuesday, with the regular communication on the second Tuesday of the month. From 1867 the regulars were on the first Monday and the annual in November, at which time officers were elected. In 1952 it was deemed best to change the regular communications to the second Monday and to shift the election to the June regular, but with the provision that the installation of officers should not occur before September. This gave the Master-elect ample time to make appointments and prepare for his installation. The annual communication for receiving yearly reports was to be in October. All this was accomplished by an amendment to the By-Laws and the first June election was held that year, 1952.

### BY-LAWS

June 11, 1956 a new code of By-Laws was adopted and became operative in September. This is the fourth code to govern

Montacute Lodge. The original one became effective at the constitution of the Lodge, June 28, 1859. Entire new codes were adopted in 1896 and 1916.

## MEMBERSHIP

The remaining events in our history are too recent to be recorded here. From a Charter membership of 27 the Lodge steadily grew until there were 334 when it was twenty-five years old, 484 at its fiftieth anniversary, with a maximum membership of 792 in 1928. Then came the depression and ground was lost until 1941 when the membership had dropped to 601. After this the tide turned and our membership on June 23, 1958 was 722. Ninety-two of these have served as Worshipful Master, seventeen as Treasurer and nineteen as Secretary.

## CONCLUSION

The year is now 1958. One hundred years have come and gone. The frontier is not the West but outer space. The inventive genius of man has produced wonders not even dreamed of when Montacute Lodge was born. But it has not produced peace and harmony among the nations. May the Spirit of Freemasonry so enter the hearts of all men that a better world will greet our brethren of fifty and one hundred years hence.

# FREEMASONRY IN OUR TIME

*Sermon delivered by Rev. Thomas S. Roy, D.D., L.H.D., D.Sc.,  
Past Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, at Montacute  
Lodge Centennial Service in Old South Church, Worcester on  
June 22, 1958.*

We come this morning to the second phase of our observance of the one hundredth anniversary of Montacute Lodge. Having set out to celebrate this anniversary, it is altogether fitting and proper that we pause at this point to acknowledge the goodness of God, to thank Him for His blessings, and to pray for His guidance and strength for the days to come.

I am sincerely grateful for the signal honor of being invited to preach the sermon on this memorable occasion, which for me is altogether unique. No person has ever before preached a centennial sermon for Montacute Lodge; nor will it ever be done again.

On behalf of Montacute Lodge I wish to express our very great thanks to the Rev. C. Fraser Keirstead who is Pastor of this church, and to the members of Old South for their very gracious act of inviting us to share in their service today. It is a distinct privilege for us to worship today in the oldest church in Worcester.

Montacute Lodge is proud of the honor of having Most Worshipful Andrew Gray Jenkins, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts here today. We know something of the exacting demands of his office and we are grateful for his presence at our party last evening and at this service today. We look forward to his return for our climax meeting tomorrow evening.

I do not share the sentiment, so often expressed, that just to have existed for a hundred years is nothing to be proud of. It is true that there are trees in this city older than that. But even a tree that has lived for a hundred years has weathered the storms and reveals an inherent vitality not possessed by its erstwhile neighbors that went down before the storm or succumbed to disease. This Lodge was

erected in a day of turmoil when the country was torn asunder. It was a day of fierce fanaticisms when the passions of men flamed out in bitter hatred, sometimes base treachery and wanton cruelty, and finally internecine war. When this Lodge was erected there were probably those who said to one another that it was no time to organize a group conceived in the consciousness of man's inherent worth and dedicated to the proposition that men can live together in brotherhood. To have lifted its head above the conflicts of those turbulent days and to have survived the subsequent shocks of war, disaster and depression indicates a ruggedness of character and a tenacity of purpose that demand our highest tribute today.

We are not so naïve, however, as to think of the Lodge as an entity that exists in and of itself. It has no existence apart from those who constitute its membership. Therefore it is the founders of this Lodge and those who have given it direction and support in difficult days whom we honor today. We are grateful for the qualities they possessed and the abilities they put into action.

We live in a day of clever phrases and banal clichés. One of the most cynical consists of the two words, "So what." To us it is said: "You are a hundred years old, so what." It is true that after we have acknowledged all that the past has given to us as heritage we are faced with the question of the meaning of Freemasonry for today. While we may have an antiquarian's interest in the past, we have to live in the present. Therefore our primary interest is in Freemasonry in our time. The one question that demands a satisfactory answer is this: Has Freemasonry got what it takes to be a constructive force in the day in which we live?

## I. THE UNIVERSAL QUALITY IN FREEMASONRY

This question finds an affirmative answer in the fact of the universal quality of our philosophy, our principles and our teachings. The probability is that when most men think of our degrees they think of them as involving a ritual designed to impress the candidate at the time of initiation, but with no particular relevance to the life situations he must face; and because it is for Masons only, with no interest to those outside the Craft. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our ritual is universally true. It is not true for Masons only, and then under certain circumstances in life; it is

true for all men, at all times and under all circumstances. The great philosopher, Kant, gave to the world what he called a categorical imperative. It is categorical because it admits of no conditions and no exceptions. "Act," he said, "as if the maxim of thy will were to become by thy adopting it a universal law of nature." This means that we must act in such fashion that it would be safe and beneficial for the whole world to act that way. Freemasonry conforms to this categorical imperative, for that which we proclaim as ideal and teach as practical may be safely universalized.

This needs no stronger confirmation than in the wide adoption of Freemasonry by men of all races and all faiths. Men of every race, of every color, of many tongues have found in Freemasonry the response to their need for fellowship and brotherhood. You will find members of the Craft in every country of the world. Sometimes it is the only unifying force in a country. For example, there is a Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, one of whose constituent Lodges is composed almost exclusively of Arabs. Within that Lodge Jew and Arab find a fellowship that transcends the political differences that have torn the Near East to shreds.

Men of diverse faiths come together in Freemasonry. Freemasonry is identified for the most part as a Protestant organization. In the United States it is almost exclusively Protestant. However, this is not because of our history or our constitutions. There is not one word in Freemasonry that would even suggest that it is Protestant. Inasmuch as operative, that is Craft or Guild Masonry existed before the Reformation, the original Craft Lodges were entirely Roman Catholic. Following the so-called revival of Freemasonry with the organization of the first Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, there were as many Catholics as Protestants in the order. Because it demonstrates the universal quality of Freemasonry, I am rather proud of the fact that when the Grand Lodge of England granted a charter to establish the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1733, the Grand Master of Masons in England who signed that charter was a Roman Catholic named Anthony Brown, Lord Montague. Our Lodge was named for him, for Montacute is a variant of Montague. The greatest patriot that Ireland ever had was Daniel O'Connell, and Daniel O'Connell was a Mason. He was Master of a Lodge, indeed was Master of two Lodges. There were as many Masons of his faith in Ireland as of

ours, with some Lodges composed entirely of clergymen of that faith. When you remember that the principles and the ritual of Freemasonry is the same today as it was then you will realize that it has always had a universal appeal to which the best consciences in all religions have responded.

Freemasonry makes this universal appeal because its emphasis has always been upon basic realities. It refuses to make demands upon men in the way of belief and loyalty that are not inherent in those realities. It denies that religion is an end in itself and that men must be used to serve that end. It insists that religion is a means to an end, bringing to men the spiritual resources that will enable them to realize life at the level of the best of which they are capable. It denies that unity consists in finding a final theory of God and the universe. It affirms the unity that acknowledges the sovereignty of God over all life, the validity of the claims of God upon all life and our duty to do the will of God in all life. It affirms a unity that transcends the accidents of race, and creed, and class—a unity that is created by our loyalty to the realities expressed by the prophet Micah twenty-seven hundred years ago when he said: “What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

## II. PROGRESS

Freemasonry has what it takes to be a constructive force in the life of the world and is relevant to every life situation because of its emphasis upon progress.

In your home, as in mine there are probably objects that you treasure for one reason or another. It may be because of their antiquity, or because of their association with a person or place. I have a bit of pottery that was given to me by a friend before I left Lima in Peru. It is a container of some sort, with a spout on it, or quite long neck. There is a grotesque face on it, as ugly as anything you ever saw. But many hundreds, or perhaps a thousand years ago it was used by the Incas to hold wine or water. I treasure it because of its age and its association with a lost civilization. It has no other value.

Freemasonry is not like that. It is not a treasure, valued as an heirloom is valued because of its antiquity and to be jealously

guarded. It is not that which carries us back to the past, but that which challenges and inspires us to look forward and use its principles to shape the future. Freemasonry by its very nature insists upon progress.

Too often it happens that an organization with high ideals and worthy objectives becomes completely absorbed in the secondary interest of perpetuating itself. It is not seeking for light in the interest of realizing its objectives, but is looking for that which will support its claims to validity as an organization. My study of religion as it has developed across the centuries compels the conclusion that sometimes what began as a positive faith in something big, and compelling, and universal degenerated into a negative prejudice against all other beliefs. Instead of seeking for clearer truth the organization has become absorbed in establishing its claim to infallibility as the source and custodian of all truth. We are not interested in keeping Freemasonry alive as an organization just for the sake of keeping it alive. We are not interested in trying to justify our right to live today because of something that happened a hundred years ago, or a thousand years ago. Rather are we interested in making the present so vital that it will give both meaning and worth to all that the Masons of days gone by have done to make the present possible.

All of which means that as Masons we are irrevocably committed to the idea of progress. We believe that in spite of all that we have received, light has come to us but partially. There is no finality in the search for truth. John Robertson was pastor of the church of the Pilgrims in Leyden in Holland. He was preaching the final sermon to those members of the church who were to embark and eventually find their way to Plymouth. His most significant word to them was to remember that God hath yet more light to break from His Holy Word. More light! Kipling, the Mason, advanced the same idea in his poem, "The Explorer." The explorer was inclined to believe those in the little border station tucked away among the foothills that it was the end of the trail, that there was no use going further. But there came the "everlasting whisper," the voice within that kept repeating that there was something lost behind the ranges, lost and waiting for him, and that he must go on.

This is Freemasonry's message, isn't it? There is something lost behind the ranges. There is a lost word, there is a lost secret, there

is a lost principle beyond our sight, beyond our immediate knowledge, and we must keep going on, for we are either explorers or exploiters. We are either pushing on as seekers for the ultimate word, the principle that will help us to lead the world into a new day, or we are shamelessly exploiting that which has been so hard-won by the pioneers of yesterday as we use it for our pleasure or our profit. Our acknowledgment of what we owe to the explorers of yesterday is measured by the effort we put into the search for light today, for whether it was the explorer Abraham, who went out though he knew not whither he went, or the scientist who dreamed his way to automation, or the physician who took the race beyond the fear of yellow fever and sleeping sickness and now polio, or the founders of this Lodge who believed that we should not stand still, but use every possible means to open new paths for men to the secrets of life; they all placed the world in their debt by their insistence upon progress.

Somewhere I have read the words that "it is no compliment to the fathers to camp where they fell." Certainly it is no compliment to the past to be satisfied with what it has brought us and so turn away from the future. Loyalty to the memories of a hundred years in Montacute Lodge demands that we carry Freemasonry closer to the problems of life. We do not live in a perfect world. We'd like to think that we live in a land of equal justice, where the rights of all men are equally respected, but honesty compels us to admit that it is not so. Some are compelled to think of themselves as second-class citizens. They are compelled to walk in the ditch while their self-constituted superiors walk the highway. Sometimes it seems as though demonic forces are at work releasing the worst in man in his inhumanity to his fellow man. Which means that as long as there is any taint of social injustice, as long as there is political corruption, as long as there is industrial exploitation, as long as there is religious superstition, and as long as there is tyranny of any sort, political or religious, just so long must we be seeking for the truth that sets men free, and just so long must we make Freemasonry the activating agent that will release within men the beneficent forces that will enable them to find their lives in unity and brotherhood.

This is the universal element in Freemasonry that makes it relevant to our time. I like the way that a Past Deputy Grand Master of

our Grand Lodge expressed it. Roscoe Pound, eminent Masonic scholar and an honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska once said this: "We, of all men, owe it to ourselves and to the world to be universal in spirit. Universality is a lesson the whole world is learning, and must learn, but we ought to be on the front bench of the world's school setting an example to our more backward fellows. Wherever in the world there is a Lodge of Masons, there should be a focus of civilization, a center of the idea of universality, radiating reason to put down prejudice and advance justice in the disputes of peoples, and in the disputes of classes, and making for the peace and harmony and civilization that should prevail in this great Lodge of the world." And may God make Montacute Lodge wise and courageous and strong in the fulfillment of this ideal.



## CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTACUTE LODGE

The three-day celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the institution of Montacute Lodge commenced with a dinner and dance at Bullock Memorial Hall in the new State Mutual Life Assurance Co. building with a total attendance of 384 on Saturday, June 21, 1958.

Accommodations for Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Hotel Bancroft had been engaged for the Grand Master and the Grand Marshal with their wives and a bouquet of roses was placed in the parlor of their suite before their arrival Saturday afternoon. A limousine was also provided for their use while in Worcester.

The head table at one end of Bullock Memorial Hall was decorated with bouquets of cut flowers and a line of greenery throughout its entire length, while at the other end of the hall palms had been arranged on the platform.

At 6:30 P.M. the Grand Master and other head table guests marched into the hall and took their seats as indicated by place cards in accordance with a pre-arranged seating plan.

At the head table were M.W. Andrew G. Jenkins with Mrs. Jenkins; R.W. Paul L. Perkins, Deputy Grand Master, with Mrs. Perkins; R.W. John W. Wilde, Junior Grand Warden, with Mrs. Wilde; M.W. Thomas S. Roy, Past Grand Master, with Mrs. Roy; R.W. Russell H. Gray, District Deputy Grand Master Brookfield 21st Masonic District, with Mrs. Gray; R.W. George H. Upton, Grand Marshal, with Mrs. Upton; Wor. B. Randolph Cady, Grand Standard Bearer, with Mrs. Cady; Wor. Albert W. Canedy, Grand Pursuivant, with Mrs. Canedy; Wor. E. Leslie Anderson, Master of Montacute Lodge, with Mrs. Anderson; Wor. David G. Gow, Past Master of Montacute Lodge and Chairman of the Guest Committee, with Mrs. Gow and Bro. Reginald W. Needham, Jr., Chaplain of Montacute Lodge, with Mrs. Needham.

Each lady at the head table had been provided with a purple orchid corsage and she found at her place a complimentary 100th Anniversary Souvenir Plate.

After the invocation by the Chaplain, Bro. Reginald W. Needham, Jr., a delicious roast beef dinner was enjoyed which was provided by Crotty Bros. of Boston, the State Mutual caterers, and during the meal organ selections were rendered by Jane Brunell.

At the conclusion of the dinner Wor. E. Leslie Anderson introduced M.W. Andrew G. Jenkins who made a few remarks appropriate to Montacute's 100th Anniversary.

These were followed by vocal selections by Bro. David Miller and Mrs. Malama Providakes, the wife of Bro. Emmanuel Providakes.

The tables were cleared and a number of them were moved back to provide room for dancing.

First on the program was a Grand March led by M.W. and Mrs. Andrew G. Jenkins and R.W. and Mrs. George H. Upton followed by other Grand Officers, then the Past Masters and Officers of Montacute Lodge and then the members, all with their ladies.

The music was provided from the platform by Russell Cole's Orchestra of Worcester and the rest of the evening was spent in informal dancing interspersed with two demonstrations of square dancing by the Worcester Quadrille Club.

At the close of the evening each lady was presented with a black leather shopping memorandum inscribed in gilt with square and compasses, the Lodge name and the dates 1858-1958 also with a potted African Violet as favors.

Sunday morning, June 22, at 9 o'clock the lodge was opened in the Grecian Chamber by Wor. E. Leslie Anderson and then the members assembled in line on Ionic Avenue to march with police escort to The First Church Old South in Worcester, corner of Main and Wellington Streets. The march started at 9:35 o'clock to music provided by the church chimes and was led by the Marshal followed by the Inside Sentinel, the Tyler and the Stewards, then the members in fours. They were followed by Officers, Past Masters and Grand Officers in twos with the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Master bringing up the rear.

As the procession entered the church, the historic Paul Revere Bell was tolled for the first time in about two decades, in honor of Montacute Lodge's 100th Anniversary by R.W. George A. Russell,

District Deputy Grand Master of the Worcester 22nd Masonic District and R.W. Clifford W. Greene, Grand Lecturer and Moderator of First Church Old South.

At the church reserved seats in front were occupied and a very enjoyable and inspiring service followed which was led by Rev. Bro. C. Fraser Keirstead, the Pastor, assisted by Wor. E. Leslie Anderson who read the Scripture Lesson and Associate Chaplain Smith G. Philips who offered the Prayer. M.W. Thomas Sherrard Roy delivered an outstanding sermon of special interest to Masons which was later printed for distribution to members and other Masons.

After the sermon Judge Walter D. Allen, Chairman of the Prudential Committee of the church, presented Wor. E. Leslie Anderson with a history of the 242-year-old church.

The entire service was broadcast from radio station WTAG for the benefit of members who were unable to be present.

At the close of the service the Marshal led the procession back to the Temple in the same formation as in the procession to the church. At the Temple the members proceeded to the Grecian Chamber and the Officers and Past Masters divided in the lobby while the Marshal escorted the Grand Master and other Grand Officers between the lines. The Grand Master, Grand Officers and Past Masters then dispersed while the Officers continued on upstairs to close the Lodge.

In the afternoon members and others with their families assembled at the Masonic Home in Charlton at about 3:30 o'clock and the weather was fair and ideal for an outing at the Home. The afternoon was spent in looking over the grounds and the Home and visiting with the residents. In front of the Home a band concert was given by the Aletheia Grotto Band until 5:30 o'clock at which time a buffet supper was served out-of-doors by Kendall Catering Co. of Fitchburg consisting of Chicken a la King, potato chips, rolls, coffee, ice cream and cakes. This concluded the outing and the visitors began to leave soon after with memories of a very enjoyable afternoon.

The grounds were then inspected by a special committee that had been appointed to make sure that any litter was cleaned up and everything left in good order.

Monday night, June 23, at 5:45 o'clock Wor. E. Leslie Anderson

opened the Lodge in the Egyptian Chamber and then called the brethren from labor to refreshment. Immediately afterward the Past Masters assembled in the parlor where a group photograph of them was taken. Then at 6:15 the Officers, with the exception of the ticket-sellers, ushered the members, Past Masters and guests from other Lodges to the banquet hall. Shortly before 6:30 the Grand Master and Suite formed in the parlor and marched to the banquet hall.

The head table was decorated with bouquets and candelabras and a line of greenery throughout its entire length. Each of the other tables had a vase of cut flowers at each end and each of the niches in the banquet hall held a palm.

As the Grand Master and Suite marched in to take their places at the head table, indicated by place cards arranged in accordance with a seating plan provided by the Grand Lodge, all those present arose and remained standing until the head table guests were seated.

The head table was occupied by M.W. Andrew G. Jenkins, Grand Master; R.W. Paul L. Perkins, Deputy Grand Master; R.W. Walter N. Cooper, Senior Grand Warden; R.W. John W. Wilde, Junior Grand Warden; M.W. Roger Keith, Past Grand Master; M.W. Thomas S. Roy, Past Grand Master; M.W. Whitfield W. Johnson, Past Grand Master; R.W. Clayton F. Fisher, Past Junior Grand Warden; R.W. Earle W. Taylor, Grand Secretary; R.W. George A. Russell, District Deputy Grand Master Worcester 22nd Masonic District; R.W. Russell H. Gray, District Deputy Grand Master Brookfield 21st Masonic District; R.W. George H. Upton, Grand Marshal; R.W. Clifford W. Greene, Grand Lecturer; Wor. B. Randolph Cady, Grand Standard Bearer; R.W. Albert N. Nettleton, Grand Pursuivant; Wor. Albert W. Canedy, Grand Pursuivant; Wor. E. Leslie Anderson, Master Montacute Lodge and Bro. Reginald W. Needham, Jr., Chaplain Montacute Lodge.

The tables for others were arranged at right angles to the head table with two or three tables in the center of the hall reserved for Past Masters, Officers and guests. Among the guests were Bro. Dr. Charles C. Scott, our resident at the Home; Bro. Mark Ball, Superintendent of the Home; Wor. Carl E. Wahlstrom, President of Worcester Masonic Charity and Educational Association; the Presiding Masters of other Worcester Lodges and the Presiding Masters of the other Lodges in the Worcester 22nd Masonic District.

After the invocation by the Lodge Chaplain a dinner of Chicken Maryland Style and Lobster was enjoyed which was served by Kendall Catering Co. and at its conclusion about 7:30 o'clock the Grand Master and Suite retired to the Armory.

In order to avoid congestion at the registration book in the anteroom of the Egyptian Chamber registration cards had been provided at the tables and as each brother entered the Egyptian Chamber he surrendered to the Tyler his card upon which he had written his name and Lodge.

At 7:45 o'clock Wor. E. Leslie Anderson called the Lodge from refreshment to labor again and after a special organ selection by the Lodge Organist, Bro. James A. S. Gow, he instructed the Marshal to ascertain if the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Suite were in waiting in the anteroom. The Marshal returned with R.W. George H. Upton, Grand Marshal, who announced that M.W. Andrew G. Jenkins was waiting in the anteroom. Wor. E. Leslie Anderson then requested the Grand Marshal to convey his compliments to M.W. Andrew G. Jenkins and inform him that he would wait on him forthwith by a committee. After the Grand Marshal retired Wor. Bro. Anderson appointed as a committee to receive the Grand Master and Suite all the Past Masters of Montacute Lodge with Wor. Leonard W. Howell, the Senior Past Master present, as chairman.

The committee was formed by the Marshal and then escorted to the anteroom by the Marshal and Stewards. At 8 o'clock M.W. Andrew G. Jenkins and his Suite were received into the Lodge.

After being welcomed by Wor. Bro. Anderson the Most Worshipful Grand Master assumed the East and took charge of the commemorative program which consisted of vocal selections by the Worcester Scottish Rite Quartette, presentation by Wor. Bro. Anderson to M.W. Bro. Jenkins of a check for \$100.00 as a gift from the Lodge to the Masonic Home and a reading of the history of Montacute Lodge by R.W. Edward M. Woodward, Jr.

Then followed remarks by M.W. Whitfield W. Johnson, M.W. Roger Keith, M.W. Thomas S. Roy and several other members of the Suite and at 10:10 o'clock the Lodge was closed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master thus culminating a most memorable celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the institution of Montacute Lodge.

## **Grand Lodge Suite at Celebration**

Wor. B. Randolph Cady

Acting as Grand Treasurer

Wor. Albert Canedy

Grand Pursuivant

R.W. Clifford W. Greene

Past Grand Lecturer

R.W. George A. Russell

D.D.G. Master Worcester  
22nd District

R.W. Russell H. Gray

D.D.G. Master Brookfield  
21st District

M.W. Whitfield W. Johnson, Jr.

Past Grand Master

R.W. Earl Taylor

Grand Secretary

M.W. Thomas S. Roy

Past Grand Master

M.W. Roger Keith

Past Grand Master

R.W. Clayton Fisher

Acting as Senior Grand  
Warden

R.W. John W. Wilde

Junior Grand Warden

R.W. George H. Upton

Grand Marshal

R.W. Paul L. Perkins

Deputy Grand Master

M.W. Andrew G. Jenkins

Grand Master











